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Afghanistan

Mojahedin belonging to the Hezb-e Eslami faction of Golboddin Hekmatyar clashed in Kabul with approximately 1,000 fighters allied with Hekmatyar rival Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, head of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami faction, AFP disclosed. Hekmatyar's mojahedin captured 200 prisoners in the battle, the news agency added. Meanwhile, Hekmatyar's faction issued a communique warning the Mas'ud-backed militia to evacuate Kabul by 23 April or face the "crushing blows" of his mojahedin, according to the clandestine Radio Message of Freedom. At the conclusion of his meeting with Mas'ud, UN negotiator Benon Sevan urged restraint on all sides, adding that he looks forward to meeting with Hekmatyar in a bid to avert a bloodbath among the rival mojahedin factions, AFP reported.

Pakistan

The government at one point considered granting asylum to deposed Afghan President Najibollah but "dropped" the idea for fear of offending that country's mojahedin, according to a statement by the defense minister reported in DAWN. Islamabad has been making "sacrifices" for the sake of the mojahedin for 13 years and does not want to see those efforts "going to waste," the defense minister remarked.

Israel

Labor leaders reacted "furiously" to Shamir's statements at a rally hailing Jewish settlement of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and criticized Defense Minister Arens for allowing IDF generals to be decorated at the "deeply controversial and political" ceremony, 'AL HAMISHMAR revealed. Arens dismissed the criticism, stating that the commanders of the IDF Central and Southern Commands were decorated with "Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Defender" awards with his knowledge and approval, Tel Aviv radio reported.

Iraq

The minister of state for foreign affairs claimed that the United States, the United Kingdom, and France are "deliberately obstructing" oil exports by Iraq needed to buy civilian goods, INA reported. Meanwhile, the UN office in Geneva accused Baghdad of harassing UN officials seeking to travel in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, AFP stated.

Egypt

Authorities arrested two Israelis carrying an unlicensed revolver and twelve shells while they were attempting to cross the Taba border in the southern Sinai, MENA reported. In another development, a Cairo court handed down a life sentence with hard labor to Qatari Prince Talal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Hamad Al Thani after finding him guilty of selling heroin in Egypt, MENA disclosed. Meanwhile, President Mubarak will "shortly" inaugurate a factory for building the U.S. M1A1 tank, MENA noted. Sixty-five percent of the tank's components will be manufactured in Egypt, according to the report.

Lebanon

The cabinet announced an economic austerity program that establishes "strict" limits on the public sector's expenditures and deficit. The plan also requests the Bank of Lebanon to "ensure order in the money market" to alleviate "unjustified nervousness" over the country's finances, Beirut radio reported.

Algeria

The country continues to need "radical change" and reforms, Higher State Council Chairman Boudiaf remarked in an address to the newly inaugurated National Consultative Council, according to an Algiers television report.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Central Council To Appoint 'Arafat Deputy

TA2204120592 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Apr 92 pp 1, 5

[By AL-QUDS special correspondent]

[Text] Amman—It is almost certain that at its meeting in Tunis on 7 May the Palestine Central Council [PCC] will discuss the question of appointing a deputy to the PLO Executive Committee chairman following the forced landing of Yasir 'Arafat's plane in the Libyan desert.

It has been learned from Palestinian sources in Amman that a number of PCC members will nominate themselves for the post of deputy to the Executive Committee chairman following a semi-consensus on the need to create this post.

It has been learned that among those who will nominate themselves for this post are Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Executive Committee; and Mahmud 'Abbas [Abu-Mazin].

Palestinian sources have affirmed that the majority of the PCC, which is comprised of 92 members, is calling for the formation of a collective leadership in the PLO in order to permit all Palestinian factions to participate in decisionmaking about the Palestinian people.

PLO Aiming for 'Collegial' Leadership, Reforms

PM2204150692 Paris LE MONDE in French 17 Apr 92 pp 1, 6

[Francoise Chipaux article: "The PLO Searching for Collegiality"]

[Text] Tunis—A week after the plane crash from which Yasir 'Arafat [Abu-'Ammar] emerged unhurt, the shock wave which swept through the PLO is far from over and everyone is still assessing the huge loss for the Palestinian cause which the death of "Abu-'Ammar" would have represented. Nobody, not even any of his political opponents, questions his position as the head of the Palestinian organization. But his critics hope that the unanimous demonstrations of support which he enjoyed on this occasion will convince him that he can safely share some of the prerogatives which he alone now holds.

"We must all, especially now, make him realize that he is the only Palestinian leader on whom there is a consensus and that sharing will not jeopardize his power," according to one leader of Fatah, Mr. 'Arafat's own movement and the main component of the PLO. "He must understand that to ensure that all the work which has been done over the past 40 years does not die with him, as we all feared that it had, we must provide ourselves with institutions." The desire for reform aimed at a more collegial and democratic leadership is not new, but Mr. 'Arafat's accident gave it greater strength, in keeping with the fear felt by all.

The PLO's real malaise is not limited to criticism of Mr. 'Arafat's "dictatorial leadership" and is probably part of the Palestinian organization's vital adaptation to a new political environment. The PLO, which has been forced, like all the protagonists in the Israeli-Arab conflict, to join the peace process—at the worst time for it—finds it difficult to reconcile a certain state rationale with the revolutionary rationale of a liberation movement which is far from having achieved its goal.

This malaise is particularly great because the negotiations remain fruitless and are mobilizing the leadership's whole attention, and it is thereby neglecting the movement's internal structures at the risk of seeing it one day either oppose the leadership's policy or be overtaken by a radical grass roots taken over by the Islamic movement. Mr. 'Arafat is thus caught between the obligation to act with very little room in which to maneuver concerning the peace talks, and the burden of an organization which hampers him but which he cannot do without because it is the basis of his legitimacy.

The problem does not, as many would like to think, lie between the occupied territories and the Tunis leadership but rather between the "technocrats" of the "interior" and the people fighting the intifadah on the streets, and between the "technocrats" of the "diaspora" and the masses in exile who feel abandoned to a greater or lesser extent. The PLO institutions, and especially those of Fatah, no longer function as they ought to because everything is referred back to the leader. Many officials have not been replaced. Communication with Palestinian opinion is faulty. The financial crisis which the PLO has been experiencing since the Gulf war renders it incapable of making the liberal handouts that it made in the past, and this is exacerbating the problems.

Pruning Needed

No official is trying to conceal an atmosphere of crisis, but opinions differ as to the solution. The "realists" or "technocrats," who are urging the continuation of the peace negotiations despite conditions which are not favorable to the PLO, are not afraid to state that "the apparatus is decaying, the structures are inappropriate, pruning is needed, and this means pensioning off between 2,000 and 3,000 bureaucratic cadres who are curbing the dynamism which has been started." "We are," one of them asserted, "in a transitional period in which we are rebuilding a new tool which will be operational both in the interior and abroad. This is difficult and dangerous in that if the process does not produce anything, we will be seen as traitors. But that is a risk we must take."

This viewpoint is disputed by other officials who believe it is impossible to sweep away the entire apparatus while no positive prospect is emerging. "On the contrary, we must strengthen it," one of them said, "so that we are ready to meet all challenges." The aim is primarily to

strengthen the Fatah apparatus, the smooth running of which, as everybody admits, determines that of the whole PLO.

It is at this level that the most stringent criticisms about Mr. 'Arafat's "authoritarian" behavior emerge, and he is accused of neglecting his own organization, of concentrating all the power, and of giving preference to a subservient entourage at the expense of competent men who are equally loyal to the cause. " 'Arafat must choose the men with whom he wishes to work, but once the choice has been made those men must be able to work peacefully in a defined framework of responsibility and in a collective leadership," one leadership member said. He added: "The main priority is to restore confidence."

This confidence is particularly necessary because criticism of the method of conducting the negotiations is increasingly lively. If all the PLO organizations agree on the need for a peaceful solution, there is growing disagreement about the necessary "concessions." The signing in March by more than one-third of the members of the Palestine National Council, the parliament in exile, of a petition calling for the suspension of negotiations until the PLO is directly represented in them and until Israeli colonization is halted, reveals a growing split in Palestinian ranks.

Balance of Forces

Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and who favors such a suspension, said that at the very least "the Palestinian delegation must clearly state at the negotiating table that it represents the entire Palestinian people and that the PLO is its reference point. It must also refuse to discuss the civil administration plan before the policy of settlements is halted and Israel recognizes that Resolution 242 applies to the whole of the West Bank and Gaza."

Refuting the danger of such an attitude, he thinks that this alone would make it possible to improve the conditions for negotiations which, in any case, will be long and difficult. But, he added, "the improvement in the balance of forces is linked to a intra-Palestinian reconciliation for which the right conditions have not yet been established." Mr. Hawatimah emphasized that "the DFLP is asking for municipal elections to be held in the occupied territories because this is the only way of assessing the representative nature of the PLO and its components and of finding real internal representatives." 'Ali 'Abu Mustafa, who is the No. 2 man in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is led by George Habash, also thinks that the negotiations should be suspended "to try to take them out of the exclusively U.S. framework." He has no illusions, however, and said that "they will continue for the time being, because some people have decided to continue, but they will lose influence in the absence of results." These disagreements are relative, however, because nobody is prepared to fully question the PLO, which gives virtually all Palestinians a kind of identity and because Mr. 'Arafat is still the symbol of a Palestine seeking its identity.

'Arafat Urges Peaceful Lockerbie Solution

PM2204160892 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18-19 Apr 92 p 1

[Report on interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Wafa' 'Amr in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] Tunis—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat appealed Friday to the U.S. and French presidents and the British prime minister to settle the crisis between Libya and the West wisely and through peaceful means. He said that he would continue his own efforts for a peaceful solution which will safeguard the dignity and rights of all the parties concerned.

According to Palestinian sources here, President 'Arafat left for Libya Friday with some ideas for ending the Libyan crisis.

In an interview with AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, 'Arafat said: "I appeal to President Bush, President Mitterrand, and Prime Minister Major, following his election victory, to resolve the Libyan issue wisely in a manner which will safeguard the dignity and rights of all, without pressure and without this fierce offensive against the Arab nation."

He added: "I am prepared to contribute to a peaceful settlement with my modest capabilities."

The Palestinian president warned against the use of military force against Libya. He said: "I hope that this does not happen, because the Arab nation would not tolerate it if it did. It cannot tolerate such an operation twice."

President 'Arafat also said: "I am making efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Libyan issue. I will continue to make efforts without any commotion. Some of these efforts have been announced, and they will continue."

He said that he discerned "an onslaught against the Arab nation. Israel is committing crimes daily against the Palestinian people and using chemical bombs against the stone-throwing children. Two medical teams—one Belgian and the other U.S.—have taken samples of these bombs, which are called tear gas bombs, and analyzed them in U.S. and Belgian laboratories, concluding that they contained internationally banned toxic chemicals. As a result of these bombs over 7,000 Palestinian women have had miscarriages and 6,500 people have been disabled. Some families have now sued the manufacturer in U.S. courts because that factory violated U.S. laws. Why is Israel not brought to account for violating international law?"

The United States, he said, is not putting pressure on Israel to implement international law although it could do so if it wanted.

He added: "That is the U.S. position so far, despite the fact that the U.S. peace initiative is based on President Bush's initiative based on the land-for-peace principle, Resolutions 242 and 338, the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights, and security for all in the region. The Israeli side still does not accept the land-for-peace principle and speaks of peace for peace. It refuses to implement Resolution 242. In other words, it refuses to withdraw. It swallows up and confiscates land, builds settlements, and settles new immigrants. It is changing the land demographically and geographically. That constitutes a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. No occupation authority is permitted to introduce geographic or demographic changes in occupied territory—not to mention the crimes against the holy places."

As for the Israeli elections, President 'Arafat's view is that they are "extremely important because they will determine the course of peaceful settlement."

He said: "The Israeli citizens must decide what they want from the next round of negotiations. Do they want peace or not? I do not support one side against the other in Israel. It is up to the Israeli citizens to decide whom they want to elect."

PLO's Milhim Views Palestinian Disagreements

JN2204124092 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Apr 92 p 14

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Muhammad Milhim, head of the Palestinian Statistics and Resources Department, has expressed hope that the Fatah Movement will be able to emerge from its internal political conflict with a constructive democratic dialogue to overcome all political differences.

Responding to questions posed by SAWT AL-SHA'B, Milhim said that he expected the PLO Central Council, after its meeting scheduled to be held on the eighth of this month [date as published], to come up with a national program to settle all current differences.

Milhim warned that the continuation of the current state of affairs without reaching an agreement which satisfies all parties would reflect negatively on the Palestinian people, particularly those in the occupied homeland.

Concerning the peace process, he said it would not be useful to go to Washington to participate in the fifth round of negotiations before obtaining a guarantee from the United States that it would pressure Israel. He said that the Israeli team to the negotiations does not represent Israel.

He said that during the negotiations the Palestinians made the mistake of ignoring the freezing of settlements and the right to self-determination to talk about transitional phases and autonomy. He explained that Palestinian participation in the negotiations was based on international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Milhim called for setting general rules to control the peace process because one should not at all go to the negotiations to meet with an Israeli delegation which only represents itself.

The head of the Palestinian Statistics and Resources Department described the Israeli Labor Party's new peace proposals as positive. He said, however, that the Palestinians were not in need of such proposals. He said that the Labor Party is more ready to respond to U.S. pressures.

Replying to a question, Milhim said: The Palestinian intifadah continues to ebb and flow. It needs new blood because it now constitutes a burden on the Palestinian people more than on the Israeli occupation. He accused some rival factions inside the occupied homeland of trying to quell the intifadah because each side wants to control and steer it to serve its own interests.

He called on the leaders of these factions to resort to reason and to serve the cause, especially because the continuation of this situation serves the Israeli occupation. He said that they should dress wounds and close ranks because the absence of discipline splits the ranks of the Palestinian people inside and outside [the occupied homeland].

Differences Between Labor, Likud 'Insubstantial'

TA2004184692 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Apr 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Peace Talks and the Israeli Elections"]

[Text] With the approach of the Israeli elections in June, criticism is increasing in Israel concerning the manner in which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is dealing with the peace process and settlements.

While Yitzhaq Shamir has affirmed his unequivocal refusal to give up an inch of what he calls "the Land of Israel" and has threatened to boycott the multilateral talks, Yitzhaq Rabin, leader of the Israeli Labor Party, in an interview yesterday with THE INDEPENDENT newspaper, did not rule out the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the long run. Pointing out that he will grant the Palestinians self-rule within six months of his election as prime minister, Rabin accused Shamir of not being serious in his talk about peace, promised to speed up the Middle East peace process and extricate it from the impasse which it has been led into by Shamir, and criticized Shamir's settlement policy.

Thus, an observer of the Israeli scene senses a clear difference in the positions of the two large parties regarding the peace process. We should realize, however,

that what appears to be a disagreement between the two parties over the peace process and settlements is simple electioneering and no more. Our people, who have experienced both sides of Israeli policy, Labor and Likud, are fully aware of how insubstantial those differences are. Although on the surface Labor's positions might seem positive, they turn in the opposite direction as soon as that party assumes power. Perhaps Palestinians still remember the practices of Rabin and his party. They are the same practices at which Rabin's counterparts in the Likud have excelled.

With the approaching fifth round of bilateral negotiations in Washington on 27 April, coordination between Arab positions acquires immense significance, especially because what is taking place in the Israeli arena will be reflected at the negotiating table in Likud maneuvers which might force the Arab and Palestinian negotiators to leave that table. This is something that will serve Shamir's plans—he is repeating his refusal to give up an inch of Arab lands and is contemplating planting more settlements on those lands.

The Arab and Palestinian negotiating strategy must be based on Arab and Palestinian principles, not on the election rhetoric of Israeli parties. This strategy requires Arab coordination on a unified position capable of breaching the wall of Israeli intransigence, stopping U.S. prevarications, and emphasizing the European presence at the negotiating table, because this presence is of great significance in advancing the peace process and saving it from the U.S. monopoly.

OPEC Affairs

Iraq Oil Minister on Petroleum Import Restrictions

LD2204195792 Vienna OPECNA in English 1803 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By Ali al-Khazraji]

[Text] Vienna, 22 Apr. 92 (OPECNA)—Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hathi stressed here today that any restrictions or taxation imposed on oil imports would "definitely have a negative impact on economic growth, not only in oil-producing countries, but the world as a whole".

In an exclusive interview with OPECNA, the minister declared: "We have to be practical and reasonable. Everybody wants a clean environment, but I think steps taken towards that (end) should take into consideration all aspects of life, civilization and modern technology."

The minister was speaking ahead of Thursday's joint meeting on the environment between OPEC and the Independent Petroleum Exporting Countries (IPEC) group, which will be held here.

Regarding these talks, he said: "We are trying to find common ground for oil-producing countries in the world as they have a common objective of providing global energy, to live a better life and to continue with suitable economic growth."

Speaking on domestic developments, al-Hithi said that the export capacity of the al-Bakr terminal on the northern tip of the Gulf, now stood at 800,000 b/d [barrels per day] and would rise to 1.2 million b/d by the end of June.

He explained that the inauguration of pumping station number four (PS4) on Friday last week, had marked the last stage of rehabilitation on the strategic pipeline that linked Iraq's northern and southern oilfields. "It is now fully operational."

Asked whether it was possible to regain al-Bakr's pre-Gulf conflict export capacity of 1.6 million B/D, al-Hithi said: "We even have plans to expand its export capacity. We are going to concentrate our efforts on maximizing our exports from (outlets in) the Gulf."

On plans to reconstruct and/or rehabilitate the al-Omeyyah terminal on the Gulf, the minister said that "as soon as we finish (repairs of) the al-Bakr terminal, we will launch activities to rehabilitate the al-Omeyyah terminal".

He said they would have to take into consideration the lengthy time it had been standing without repair, but "we are definitely going to make maximum use of the Omeyyah terminal". The terminal was extensively damaged during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

Questioned about the shortage of spare parts in support of the reconstruction drive, due to the United Nations economic embargo, the minister said that "we are forced now to manufacture a lot of spare parts that we are using".

He went on: "We are using all our facilities to manufacture even simple parts. Of course, this is expensive, but there are no other alternatives to make everything we need. Sometimes we try to do without some of the parts, especially high-tech controls, because we simply do not have them."

The minister expressed the hope that this situation would be resolved once the country was again able to purchase "the spares we need".

Asked if he was hopeful that Iraq's talks with the United Nations on the resumption of oil exports in accordance with UN resolution 706 would be reconvened soon, he stressed that his country was serious about reaching an agreement with the UN and, hopefully, "no single party or group in the UN would try to hinder such an accord". However, he added that such an agreement must be "honourable and practical" so that Iraq could export oil to raise funds for the purchase of food and medicine.

Regarding plans to enhance the productivity of the country's oilfields, as well as contacts made by the Iraqi Oil Ministry with foreign oil companies, al-Hithi said:

"We are continuing our plans to upgrade the production potential of our oilfields and we now have a four-year plan."

This, he explained, included putting into service other huge oilfields like Majnoon and West Qurna. However, steps taken towards this end "are probably not as big as we would want at this time".

On plans to conduct seismic surveys in the western region of the country, the minister said that such a programme had already been initiated.

"Based on our data, this region contains big oil reserves. This is an important step taken by the Iraqi oil industry, since we are not only having to assess our oil reserves all over the country, but also to assess the types of oil," he said.

Concerning plans to regain Iraq's pre-Gulf war production capacity, al-Hithi disclosed that output capability was now "very close to 2.5 million b/d and hopefully we are going to regain pre- Gulf war capacity in the second half of this year, provided we get some spare parts and other materials for our storage facilities which sustained heavy damage during the conflict".

However, he pointed out that the country would not have the "manoeuvrability and flexibility which we had before in producing and exporting oil".

Asked about the costs so far for reconstructing and rehabilitating damaged oil facilities, suffered during the conflict, al-Hithi said it could be well above six billion dollars.

Regarding the country's refining capacity, he said "we are now refining about 450,000 b/d, although we are in short supply of the chemicals we need to maintain our refining capacity levels".

Refined products, he said, were being used for internal consumption only. "I hope that once an agreement is reached with the UN, we will be able to import chemicals, catalysts and spare parts for our refineries," he said.

Kuwaiti Oil Production 'Above Expectations'

LD2204202192 Vienna OPECNA in English 1818 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Vienna, 22 April (OPECNA)—Kuwaiti oil production will 'probably' get to the one million dollars a barrel mark within a month's time, Kuwaiti oil minister Dr. Hamud A. al-Ruqba said here today.

The minister was speaking exclusively to OPECNA on his arrival in the Austrian capital to attend a one-day OPEC-IPEC [Independent Petroleum Exporting Countries] meeting on the environment Thursday, followed by a meeting of the organization's ministerial monitoring committee on Friday.

He said the committee's deliberations would be 'easy' as the 'real meeting' would be in May. Friday's talks would probably last just one day.

Kuwaiti production was 'above expectations', he said. "Nowadays, with the neutral zone, we exceed 900,000 barrels a day," he said. "The average we predicted for March, April, May and June was only 812,000 barrels a day.

"I think we are exceeding this. I wouldn't be surprised if we got to a million dollars a barrel in probably a month's time," he said.

The OPEC-IPEC meeting on the environment is being held as part of preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June.

"I think the environmental issue is a very important issue and the conference in Brazil is a very essential one," said al-Ruqba.

"We, as (oil) producing countries in OPEC and IPEC, have the same objectives. We are in the same boat. We will discuss these in preparation for Brazil."

The minister said he 'really hoped' that all the countries represented could agree on objectives.

"To me the real pollution is nuclear, not hydrocarbons. "Of course, there is hydrocarbon pollution, but with atomic energy, once you have one (major accident), you're finished.

"You remember we had Chernobyl in Russia in 1986. We are still suffering. So, I think that, if you are going to apply taxes, the first should be applied to nuclear power," he affirmed.

Kuwait was 'of course' opposed to carbon emission taxes, he said.

Development Fund Grants $20.8 Million in Loans

LD2004092892 Riyadh SPA in English 1931 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Vienna, April 17, SPA—OPEC'S International Development Fund signed here on Friday agreements to grant five loans totalling 20.8 million dollars to the Maldives, Syria, Cape Verde, Tanzania and Senegal.

The Maldives will get a 2.6 million dollar loan for a fishing development project, Syria will get 10 million to be used in agricultural development, Senegal will get five million for an educational project, Cape Verde will get two million and Tanzania 1.2 million for educational projects as well.

The loans will be repaid over 17 years, including a five-year period of grace.

Algeria

State Establishes National Consultative Council

Boudiaf Speech

LD2204183692 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1554 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Speech by Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf to the National Consultative Council in Algiers—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. May God's prayers and peace be upon His prophet and his family and companions.

Brothers and sisters: One hundred days have passed since I returned to the homeland. During these 100 days we managed, thanks to our people's response, to ward off the specter of sedition, hatred, violence, and fratricidal infighting. During these 100 days we worked to restore the state's authority and its prestige in the country and abroad. We will continue our efforts in this direction with a view to creating a state which enjoys the respect of all because it will be worthy of everybody's respect.

Such was our first task, around which we arranged our preliminary plans in order to achieve what the citizens expect from us: the plan for economic revival, the recovery of state property, the installation of a human rights monitoring group, and the setting up of the National Consultative Council.

During these 100 days I met with many of our homeland's sons, companions of the glorious struggle, officials from various organizations, intellectuals, workers, young female and male students, unemployed people, and ordinary citizens. During these 100 days I acquainted myself with numerous files and listened to various opinions. There is no doubt that some were expecting us to accomplish more than what has been achieved in these 100 days. You all know, however, that the difficulties facing our country require continuous efforts and patient and persistent action extending over a longer period than the period we have just gone through.

The duty of frankness forces me to say that I have discovered that the crisis in which we are living is a far-reaching crisis, because it has widened and affected our society in its innermost parts, its identity, its values and its institutions.

One hundred days have passed since I returned, and I remain convinced today, as I was on the day of my return, that our country is in need of a radical change, one that cannot be limited to show-like or pedagogic operations or to a simple change of persons. All this is necessary, but is not sufficient. The change which everybody is expecting must encompass all aspects of our economic, social, and cultural life. Brothers and sisters, I seize the opportunity of the installation of the National Consultative Council to address the Algerian people and announce to them that our choice of a radical change is the only way to enable our country to extricate itself from this terrible crisis.

What are the pains from which this country is suffering? In reality, brothers, Algeria is suffering from three crises: a moral crisis, a spiritual crisis, and an identity crisis. For 30 years our people have been torn between the East and the West, between the French and Arabic languages, between Arabism and Berberism, and between authenticity and international values, so much so that the individual here has become lost, not knowing where to go.

Our society bears the scars of years of fanaticism and isolation. It is today unable to establish any linkage between its population sectors or a constructive dialogue, given the intricate conflicts between cultures, generations, options, and trends. This lack of linkage has caused estrangement and contradictions between generations and social classes alike. [passage omitted]

We must control the constituents of our personality, just as we knew how to transcend regionalist considerations, the tribal spirit, being introverted, and estrangement. National unity is a valuable treasure, and thanks to it we managed to mobilize our energies in the past and to achieve victory in our liberation war. Today it is this condition that must be realized to secure progress. This is the basic mission of 1 November.

Our crisis is also a political crisis, a crisis of state. After long years in which a single party and the dictatorship of a single language prevailed, democratization has become a necessary stage. But the nebulous conditions during which this experience was set up explain its slippery process and the situation we arrived at, during which time a party tried to abuse democracy in order to liquidate democracy. The suspension of the electoral process then became an urgent necessity.

The use of Islam for political and partisan aims, and also the resorting to democracy and lies found, for a specific period, an audience among the deprived and marginalized sections of the population. In addition, there was also the complicity of some quarters of the regime itself. It is thus becoming more and more obvious that there was indeed a complicity between the ruling party and the fundamentalists, and unfortunately also with some opposition parties. The National People's Army, however, was able to confront this deterioration of the situation with honor and determination. By doing so it saved the country.

There is in Algeria a silent majority which has no links with the National Liberation Front [FLN] or with the so-called Islamic currents or any of the chauvinistic and isolationist parties. This majority of the people's sons, which adopts the stand of a cautious observer, represents an enormous hidden force. We have realized that this huge group of citizens will not make a move until it is convinced that a return to the past is no longer possible and that the link with the former regime has been definitely severed. I would like to say emphatically and

clearly that the change which we have pledged to bring about will be achieved and that it will be achieved with everybody's contribution, God willing.

We must all realize that Algeria must not miss this historic opportunity to bring about a change which would guarantee its salvation.

What is required, dear brothers, is the eradication of the disease from its roots. In order to achieve this, we must first restore trust between the ruler and the citizen. One of the main lines of this change is the reviewing of relations between the citizen and the administrations. Injustice, favoritism, nepotism, and Mafia-like attitudes must all be eliminated. Everyone should know their rights and duties and should respect other people's rights. The law is above everyone. No one is allowed to transgress the rules which regulate life in society.

Therefore, we must attach particular attention to justice. There has been so much talk recently about judges and the judiciary. I have already asked the judges to cleanse their ranks and combat corruption, bias, and partisan attitudes. Our judges must be above all suspicion. I put my trust in the majority of our judges so that our judiciary can recover its dignity and credibility in the eyes of Algerians.

The state must make the necessary efforts to improve the judges' working and living conditions as well as to provide protection for them. The judges, however, must strive and live up to the level of the task assigned to them.

Those who have been trying through rumors, hostile statements, and contacts with foreign newspapers to hamper our efforts aimed at gaining the confidence of our partners abroad and undermining our efforts to receive the necessary financial support for raising the level of our country's economy cannot claim to be doing this in the interest of the homeland.

One can say that there is a strategy at the level of some groups which seek to destroy the efforts of the authorities, efforts aimed at realizing the real change needed. These people who fish in troubled waters seek for conditions in the country to remain bad. They hope that a downward trend in conditions will give them the opportunity to come to the forefront once again.

Have these people forgotten their responsibility in creating the present situation through which the country is groping? Is there any difference between them and those who would not hesitate to murder a security officer who is keeping constant watch over the security and the well-being of the citizens? One wonders who is reaping the benefits of these crimes and who is behind them.

The Higher State Council denounced these criminal acts. It declared that it is no longer possible to keep silent. Therefore, Algerians, the dynamic forces, the cadres and the young men whose future is threatened today should raise their voices and clearly, unreservedly, and swiftly condemn these deeds. It is simple. The national interest is not in the service of one group or the elite. It is in the service of all. If a citizen sees wrong being committed, the citizen must not condone it or keep silent about it, because this is an enormous responsibility. If we are to deliver our people from these trying times the citizen should act. Keeping silent or indifferent benefits no one. Public order has been established, the state has recovered its prerogatives and functions, the streets have been returned to the citizens and the mosques to worshipers, and continuous efforts are being exerted to preserve the people's basic freedoms. [passage omitted]

Only a few days ago a human rights monitoring center was inaugurated to emphasize our determination to continue our march toward establishing the state of law and to provide the citizen during this transitional phase with complementary means which protect him from possible slips and give him the possibility of facing up to any excesses. It is our hope that the necessary conditions quickly become available to lift the state of emergency and to return matters to their normal course.

The establishment of a powerful state which imposes respect for public order and the recovery of public security and which permits citizens to lead their lives in calm and reassurance is a necessity which no one can do away with. This is not enough, however, because in addition to this the state has to be just and must eradicate injustice, tyranny by authorities, and excesses, and it must avoid any inconveniences caused by the administration to the citizens.

We want a strong state, a just state, and what is more a modern state—that is to say a state which is run by criteria and rules which enable the organization of social life and which restore citizens' confidence and optimism. I had previously announced my intention to have the Constitution reviewed and to organize presidential and then legislative elections as soon as possible to provide the country with institutions which are appropriate to the new phase through which it is now passing.

There is an issue that occupies people's minds and which all of our people consider to be an important issue: corruption.

I would like to renew my pledge to you that I will launch a constant war against this scourge. Various officials from the system who exchange accusations regarding embezzlement seek to shuffle the cards so that the reality will not be exposed. The mass media which followed the path of these peoples and which daily squander millions of dinars are not carrying out their role and do not look for the truth. On the contrary, they strive to increase confusion and ambiguity.

As for me, I will tackle this issue with all composure and calmness. Here I would like to recall the principles on which my work in this field will be based. First, nobody, whoever they may be, can use me as a means of vengeance or for settling accounts. Second, the dossier of property acquired through suspect methods will be dealt

with within the framework of the law and by means of justice. Third, the people have a right to demand the shedding of light on the management of the state's monies and property. It also has the right to look into these issues. We promised to open this file and we will honor our promise. Fourth, in the future all precautions will be taken and all necessary means will be adopted so as to put a final end to these practices which corrupt our country and tarnish its reputation. Fifth, I agree with setting up an investigation commission to study files on corruption. It would be suitable to have this commission supervised by members of the National Consultative Council.

The third crisis about which I want to talk is the economic crisis. We can say that for 30 years the Algerian economy was in a phase marked by excessive state control over all domains: agriculture, trade, industry, etc. This stage resulted in an interaction between the party and the state in which bureaucracy intensified and the regime was beset by complete paralysis. The majority of our people then became indignent, while a minority of people amassed huge wealth.

A few years ago our march completely changed, and we adopted a completely different line: We moved into the stage of excessive liberal practices, and the inevitable result was chaos. The Algerian economy did not resist these violent changes, and it was beset by the diseases which we are witnessing today and from the effects of which we are suffering. I have asked that a committee be set up to assess the situation and to lay down an objective and honest inventory. Algeria needs a clear development strategy to face up to its economic problems. Today I am not going to go into details about the major economic options, and I am going to content myself with saying that we must continue the economic reforms. What does this mean?

1. Moving to a real market economy in order to free the initiative of citizens and their spirit of cooperation. This presupposes the setting up of a market marked by transparence and accompanied by the existence of a purged and efficient production sector in a competitive framework.
2. The recovery of the authority of the state with a view to purging and rationalizing economic life.
3. The state having a role in some basic sectors.
4. Promoting agriculture, which is a priority in our economy for two reasons: because it is not reasonable for us to use an important portion of our resources to import food which we can produce at home, and because agriculture is a basic sector and noble work, which we must reevaluate. Promoting agriculture permits the creation of new jobs, returns life to our rural areas, and permits the settling of the population there.
5. Securing more social justice and solidarity by attaching a particular interest to the matters of employment, education, vocational training, and housing.
6. Opening up to the outside world and integrating with the world economy through cooperation and participation with others.

We must show pragmatic behavior and reject ideologies in achieving this strategy. The reality, brothers, is that most of our problems require first of all that we are able to mobilize the men and women of this country and direct their huge resources toward achieving the required revival. You know that several cadres who are useful and have integrity were marginalized in past years and their determination undermined. [passage omitted]

We must develop our exchanges with the outside world and secure for ourselves a suitable place in the world's markets. International competition today, after the disappearance of blocs, is no longer ideological but rather is economic, and Algeria will enjoy the respect of all thanks to fulfilling its promises and respecting its commitments and will thus safeguard its place among states. It is necessary that our representatives abroad understand that the role of diplomacy is represented first of all in the service of our economy, and our diplomats must be mobilized to serve our economic project and our legitimate aspirations for radical change. Thus, the working method must be changed and we must show pragmatism, dynamism, and professional competence. We must revise the diplomatic map according to the interests of our country.

If you are optimistic and expect good, you will get it, and I personally am optimistic because the solutions to our problems exist and are within our reach. Yes, we are going through a difficult stage, but I am certain that Algeria can face the challenge of the 21st century if it adopts assiduous work and turns its back on false practices, because human and material resources are available to us thanks to God. [passage omitted]

For these reasons we should think about a comprehensive redrafting of the educational system in order to modernize Algerian education and to open it to the world of technology and employment. We also must adapt education to the needs of the national economy and social development. School must be a place to convey and produce knowledge, and it must be kept away from political preoccupations, partisanship, and ideology. The future of our sons compels us to devote the utmost interest, care, and effort to this issue.

I would also like to say something about our community abroad. It is the duty of our diplomats accredited to the countries where there exists an immigrant Algerian community to make it their priority to help these immigrants solve their problems and to ease their lives. The diplomatic representation must be a link between these immigrants and their homeland. On the other hand, our citizens abroad must be mobilized to fully contribute to the hoped for development in Algeria.

I make an appeal to all the thinkers, researchers, engineers, technicians, economists, and to all our workers abroad to urge them to find formulas for gathering and cooperating in order to examine the means which enable them to come to the salvation of their country in this difficult phase it is going through.

I would like to tackle a critical issue. You know that our population is increasing every year by no less than 750,000 people—or equal to the population of Constantine. Should this situation continue the population of Algeria will reach 50 million in only 20 years. Do you know that the rich and developed countries are those countries which were able to control their demographic growth? Consequently, we must devote all our attention to studying this issue courageously and objectively, which is one of our most fundamental duties toward future generations.

Brothers and sisters, now I would like to tackle the reason for our meeting today, which is the installation of the National Consultative Council, which is considered to be one of the political tools within the framework of our action for change. The National Consultative Council is constituted of 60 members who were appointed in a way which ensures an objective and balanced representation of all the social forces with regard to their diversity and tendencies. The members have been chosen from people who belong to the fields of labor, the economy, education, youth, culture, science, religion, and the various sectors of national activity, be they public or private, associations, and the Algerian community abroad. The council consists in general of people whose abilities, qualifications, and experience enable them to contribute in a constructive way to the life of the citizens.

Before concluding my speech I would like to point out that I intentionally did not mention our country's foreign policy. Foreign policy is only a mirror which reflects our internal situation, which was my priority today. We will in the coming few days give some indications and clarifications to this effect so as to determine our position in this world which is witnessing deep changes, and in which Algeria must play its part in total freedom and total responsibility in its capacity as a sovereign country which is in control of its destiny and which is carrying out its duties.

Finally, I strongly emphasize to you that the Higher State Council and its chairman will always listen to the voices of the citizens, especially those who are suffering isolation and deprivation. We are fully aware of the presence of the enemies of change who are hoping that anarchy, mutual killing, and mutual aversion among brothers will prevail. They resort to the use of all sorts of means to impede our action, make our intentions collapse, and thwart the citizens' determination by spreading rumors, defamation, and insults, with the aim of making citizens lose hope in themselves, in their future, and in their homeland. It is regrettable that some journalists whose past is black can write about and even insult the higher symbols of the state [word indistinct]. [applause] [passage omitted]

I must emphasize once again that the state has recovered its authority, even if there are here and there some officials who are trying to impede our march toward change because they are inefficient, negligent, or accomplices. I repeat that we are in full control of the situation and that we will continue the march toward change.

Algerian men and women, today we need all of you. We need your support and efforts. All those who place the love of their homeland above all other considerations, and those who dream of a prosperous, modern Algeria in which amity and brotherhood predominate, should get ready to join us in our battle within the national patriotic rally which will take place in the coming days. It is true that this national rally does not consist of only one party. We would like the Algerian base, Algerian youth, and those who have a right to Algeria to mobilize themselves and be an instrument for dialogue with the administration, the government, and the authorities. [passage omitted] God willing, we will issue statements concerning this national rally in the coming days or weeks, and we will ask all citizens to think about it and to make efforts and to work for their homeland in the same way that we are doing.

I appeal to the security forces, the National People's Army, the cadres of the central and local administrations, the heads of public and private sector institutions, working women and women who are not working, youths, students and secondary school pupils, and those who are unemployed—to every one of these I make this appeal so that everyone of us in his own field and place feels that he is recruited and required to participate in carrying out the noble task—the task of developing our country so that it can open itself to the world and to the 21st century for the sake of stability, security, cooperation, solidarity, freedom, and democracy. [passage omitted] In the coming days you will be meeting with us in order to agree on your programs of work and the fields of your activities.

Dear brothers, 100 days have passed since I returned here, and twice as many remain until the end of the year. One hundred days have passed. We used them to restore security to our towns and villages. We have used 100 days to prepare the structure for our upsurge. Let us now look to the future. Let the coming 100 days and the other 100 days that follow be days of determined work, during which we will implement specific projects which will provide the ground from which we set out to solve our problems and tackle our conditions and to get rid of the crisis about which we have long complained.

I am certain that you will discharge your work in the best way possible. We wish you success and good progress. Peace and God's blessing be upon you.

Council Members Appointed

LD2204134892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] We have just received the following list of the 60 members of the National Consultative Council [al-Majlis al-Istishari al-Watani]:

Omrane, Ahdjoudj, economics lecturer abroad;
Hadj Moussa Akhamoukh, head of the wise men in Ahaggar;
Mohamed Aftisane, film director;
Miloud Bediar, university lecturer;
Merzak Baktache, writer;
Zouaoui Benamadi, journalist and current director of the ALGERIE- ACTUALITE weekly;
Mohamed Benbeldia, member of the administration board of a contribution fund;
Faiza Benhadid, member of the Family Planning Organization;
Abdelbaki Benabdoun, director general of a state-owned company;
Mohamed Benmansour, managing director of a public company;
Mahfoud Bennoune, university lecturer;
Abdelhamid Benhadouga, writer;
Ali Benyahia, agricultural engineer;
Hadj Bouhadjar, president of the Chamber of Agriculture;
Mohamed Boukhobza, sociologist;
Boualem Bourouiba, former trade union official;
Said Bouchair, university lecturer;
Mohamed Bouamar, member of a youth association;
Abdelhak Boumachra, president of the Algerian Islamic Scout movement;
Hachemi Bounedjar, senior official at the prime minister's office;
Ali Touati, bank executive;
Mohamed Toumi, medical professor;
Mohamed Djemaoui, chairman of the Association of Imams;
Hamid Hadaj, managing director of a public company;
Assia Harbi, sociologist;
Hocine Hanachi, bank executive;
Ismail Youcef Khodja, fisherman;
Abdelaziz Khalfallah, economist;
Abdelkader Khomri, sociologist;
Mohamed Saidi, member of the Higher Information Council;
Zouheir Sekkal, member of the Society for the Protection of the Environment;
Hafid Senhadri, member of the Association of Executives;
Mohamed Djamel Si, inspector of physical and sports education;
Tayeb Cherif, executive at the Transportation Ministry;
Ouardi Chaabeni, president of the National Chamber of Commerce;
Hachemi Etroudi, retired;
Mohamed Cherif Abbas, member of the Organization of War Veterans;
Mohamed Abbas, editor and director general of the AL-SALAM daily;
Terki Djaafar Abbas, industrialist;
Malika Abdelaziz, journalist;
Tahir Allan, telecommunications engineer;
Haboubane Ahmed Ayad, civil servant;
Mahfoud Ghezali, university lecturer;
Omar Fakhar, small businessman;
Mohamed Ferhat, lawyer;
Hedi Flissi, medical doctor;
Malika Grifou, pedagogist;
Abdelouahab Keramane, senior official at the Foreign Ministry;
Aissa Kechida, small businessman
Mohamed Kihel, director of a university institute;
Mostefa Arfaoui, chairman of the International Federation of Swimming;
Mustapha Achref, writer;
Zineb Laouedj, writer;
Mohamed Malek, bank executive;
Reda Malek, former minister;
Ziane Messaad, senior official at the Equipment Ministry;
Khalida Messaoudi, member of a women's organization;
Seghir Mostefaoui, former bank executive;
Mohamed Said Maazouzi, former minister;
Abdessalem Menaa, trade union official.

Ladies and gentlemen, that was the list of the members of the National Consultative Council, which is due to be installed officially at 1500 GMT today by Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council. This comes in line with the pledge by Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf to install some bodies which will assist the Higher State Council in carrying out its temporary tasks.

Duties of Council Described

LD2204180492 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Algiers, April 22 (APS)—The offical creation of the Consultative Council is scheduled for today Wednesday. This council will be composed of 60 members chosen by a commission of the Higher State Committee [HCE]. It guarantees an objective and neutral representation of all strata, has no political activity, enjoys high-standard professional capacities and has credibility within popular masses. According to unofficial sources, the commission that is in charge of this operation and chaired up by Reda Malek decided the final list after the convening of more than 100 persons.

Among persons approved to be members of the Consultative Council, several well-known personalities at the national level from the world of culture, education, information economy and sports besides numerous mojahedin (war veterans), sons of martyrs, trade-unionists and representatives of the Algerian community abroad and six women.

It is worth recalling the idea of the creation of a Consultative Council occurred after the cancellation of the electoral process following the resignation of Chadli Bendjedid from the post of president of the Republic and the creation of the Higher State Committee. According to the decree published by the HCE, which governs the Consultative Council, it does not fall within the prerogatives of the latter to carry out amendments to draft bills nor make suggestions in any project. Its mission consists, however, in giving opinions to the HCE regarding projects the higher committee suggests and that will be then examined by the Consultative Council in order to

make legislative decrees which will fill the vaccum existing in the economic, commercial and financial fields.

The third fronts i.e. FLN (National Liberation Front), FIS (Islamic Front of Salavation) before its dissolution and FFS (Socialist Forces' Front) were opposed to the idea of the creation of this council. These very fronts also demanded the carrying on of the electoral process and regarded this institution as unconstitutional. Other political parties claimed the participation of parties that have importance on the political scene in the creation of this institution and in the definition of its prerogatives and the length of its mandate. Nevertheless, no reaction was registered within the other parties neither when was the creation of this council announced nor during consultations relating to its creation. It is worth recalling the Consultative Council will occupy the headquarters of the former National People's Assembly (APN) and will benefit from the services of its employees. Its ordinary sessions will be public and it will be composed of sections instead of the former commissions of the dissoluted APN.

FFS Criticizes Council

LD2304083592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Excerpt] At the start we record the initial reactions of some of the parties—the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], the Rally for Culture and Democracy, and the Socialist Vanguard Party—to the inauguration of the National Consultative Council.

The FFS asserted in a statement issued yesterday that the circumstances for creating the Consultative Council and the choice of its members were not different from the old practices. It said that the powers of this council are characterized by great vagueness, and it asked if it represents a study bureau or a legislative body and whether it has a constituent authority. The FFS demanded the organization of a national conference between the regime and the political and social formations. [passage omitted]

Prosecutor Probes Alleged Bendjedid Embezzlement

LD1904112692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] The judiciary focuses its attention on embezzlement and bribery. The Algiers judicial district public prosecutor listened to the statement of former President Ahmed Ben Bella concerning his recent allegations accusing former President Chadli Bendjedid of transferring public funds. An official source at the judiciary council who announced the news added that Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella was summoned again to give more information.

Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella last month told the two magazines PARIS MATCH and AL-HAYAT that Mr. Chadli Bendjedid transferred $10 billion to $15 billion. He emphasized that he has documents to prove this.

Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, however, stated that he is prepared to cooperate with the law quite openly and he challenged anyone who can prove that he transferred public funds to do so.

W. Sahara Seeks UN Peace Plan's Implementation

LD2104102392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz held a news conference in Algeria this evening in which he spoke about the UN peace plan for Western Sahara. Seven months have passed since the cease-fire, and the referendum has not yet been organized.

[Correspondent Nassira Ait Salah] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz came to Algeria today to discuss further backing to achieve the UN peace plan, a plan formulated after 17 years of conflict, the implementation of which began on 6 September with the cease-fire agreement. The plan is based on four pillars: a free referendum on self-determination; a referendum based on the Spanish statistics of 1974; the Saharans would have two choices, either independence or annexation to the Kingdom of Morocco; and, last, the referendum would be under UN supervision. Seven months have passed since the cease-fire in Western Sahara, and the referendum scheduled to be organized has not been held. Obstacles prevented its achievement. Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz demands the removal of these obstacles to finally achieve the UN peace plan.

Malian Minister Praises Algiers' Mediation Efforts

LD2104092892 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] You remember the peace agreement signed on 11 April between the Malian Government and the Azawed movements, and Algeria's efforts to arrive at this agreement. Today Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, received at the presidency Malian Foreign Minister Mr. Tieble Drame, a special envoy of President Amadou Toumani Toure. Soon after his arrival the Malian special envoy spoke to journalists and our correspondent Lotfi Chraiet:

[Begin Drame recording, in French] We have come here to thank Algeria, its leaders, and its people for their good contribution to the efforts leading to peace in Mali. It is an action of friendship, brotherhood, and solidarity by the Algerian people which we will not forget.

President Toumani Toure has charged me with coming to pay tribute to Algeria for its efforts that led to the signing of the national pact on 11 April 1992 in Bamako. [end recording]

[Announcer] The minister presented his thanks to Algeria, its people, and its leadership for their efforts to restore peace in Mali. The agreement between the Malian Government and the Azawed movements, he said, was a victory for the Malian people, a victory for

Algeria, and for the Africans too. What the Malian people have achieved, he added, is a vivid example of the ability of Africans to resolve their problems. Mali, he added, will strive to secure development and progress. We as leaders, together with the Touareg movements, the political parties leaders, and the civilian society realize very well the meaning of the agreement for the stability of Mali and the region.

Further on Malian Agreement

LD2104093792 Algiers APS in English 1012 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Algiers, 20 Apr (APS)—The national pact that "Malian leaders, political parties and the civil society engaged to implement is a victory for Mali, Algeria and Africa", the Malian foreign affairs minister, Thieble Drame declared on Sunday in a visit to Algiers "to thank Algeria for having qualitatively contributed" to the signing of the pact. "This pact is a major achievement for Mali which sees its sons reconciliated", Drame pointed out to the press at the end of the audience granted to him by Mohamed Boudiaf, president of the Higher State Committee (HCE). According to Drame "there is no more obstacle to the peace process in Mali since the whole Malian people is progressively joining the pact which is a 'major achievement' for the stability of Mali and the whole region". The Malian national pact, it is recalled, was signed on 11 April in Bamako, following a series of meetings organised in Algiers under the mediation of Algerian leaders.

Egypt

Two Israelis Arrested for Weapons Possession

NC2204181192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—Seaport security personnel on Monday apprehended two Israeli citizens attempting to cross the Tabah border post in southern Sinai. The Israelis were in possession of a revolver and shells [A'yirah Salihah Lil Istikhdam].

Investigations revealed that one defendant was caught in the morning with an unlicensed revolver. The second defendant was arrested on the evening of the same day in possession of 12 shells.

A source at the public prosecutor's office has said that the normal procedure in such cases is to release the defendant on bail, after interrogation, and deport him back to his country.

Qatari Prince Sentenced for Selling Heroin

NC2304081692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—Cairo Criminal Court has sentenced Qatari Prince Talal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Hamad Al Thani to life sentence with hard labor. He also was fined 500,000 Egyptian pounds. The court confiscated 3.1 kg of heroin found in his possession and ordered him to pay 3 million pounds in customs duties after finding him guilty of selling heroin in Egypt.

In its edition for tomorrow, AL-AKHBAR says that the court also sentenced hairdresser Mursi Muhammad to six years in prison with hard labor for acting as a middleman in selling the heroin.

The court acquitted the Qatari prince's bodyguard and chauffeur on the charge of selling heroin.

Counselors 'Abd-al-Qadir Isma'il Sabri, Husayn Ayyub, and Nashid Rif'at issued the verdict.

Egyptian Plant To Manufacture U.S. Tank

NC2204112892 Cairo MENA in English 0753 GMT 22 Apr 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, April 22 (MENA)—Minister of Military Production Dr. Jamal-al-Din al-Sayyid declared yesterday at a meeting of the ruling majority National Democratic Party's Political Club that President Mubarak would inaugurate shortly a plant for building the American tank A1M1 which is being produced in Egypt with the cooperation of the United States, reported AL-AHRAM in its second-lead story.

Al-Sayyid declared that the proportion of the components of the tank which will be manufactured in Egypt would be 65 percent and could be pushed up to 80 percent during the time-table set for the manufacture of the tank, the paper also reported.

The minister further declared that Egypt had reached self-sufficiency in conventional weapons, 90 percent self-sufficiency in various kinds of ammunition and guidance equipment, and ten percent self-sufficiency in equipment for defense against chemical and biological warfare, the paper added.

'No Restrictions' on Egyptian Journalists in Libya

NC2204163692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 22 Apr (MENA)—Qadhdhaf al-Damm, general coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations in Cairo, has said that there are absolutely no restrictions whatsoever on the movement of Egyptian journalists in Libya, adding that the Libyan Jamahiriyah welcomes Egyptian and Arab journalists. The press can write "freely" without restriction and writers should not pursue personal interests or be pushed into writing anything, he said; adding: We want the citizens in Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyah to know the truth about what happens in both countries.

Speaking to reporters today, the Libyan official added: Yesterday I discussed with 'Abd-al-Rahman Musa, secretary of justice and police in Tubruk, ways to facilitate the work of Egyptian journalists during their visits to Libya, as well as the good treatment Egyptians residing in Libya enjoy.

Al-Damm added that he personally saw, in Tubruk and Musa'id, that citizens of both countries have intermingled so much that it would be impossible to return to the days when relations were severed.

In his remarks, al-Damm emphasized that Libya wants to safeguard Egyptian security, viewing it as the same as Libya's.

Commenting on the detention of two Egyptian journalists by Tubruk authorities, al-Damn said brother 'Abd-al-Rahman Musa thought the two were foreign correspondents. After determining that they were indeed Egyptian journalists, the two were immediately released. They are free to travel between Egypt and Libya, he said.

Al-Damm met with Matruh Governor Kamal Mansur this morning to discuss ways to facilitate travel between the two countries and the traffic problems across the al-Sallum border post following the unjust resolution, which affects the united Libyan-Egyptian people.

Report on Increased Prices, Hardships in Libya

NC2204200692 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 20 Apr 92 p 12

[Report by Ibrahim Khalil]

[Text] The number of Egyptian citizens returning from Libya daily by land reached 13,000 following the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution imposing an aerial blockade on Libya. The average number was between 6,000 to 7,000 before the resolution.

Returning Egyptians say they are returning in increased numbers due to a phenomenal price increase in Libya and the black market boom there. One kilogram of sugar costs one Libyan pound now, up from six piasters [currency not specified].

The Libyans have begun to hoard food supplies. The value of the Libyan dinar has dropped from over 2.5 Egyptian pounds to 1.5 pounds.

It is expected that trading in the Libyan dinar will be limited in the next few days due to diminished demand for the currency.

A large number of trucks are going into Libya across al-Sallum, loaded with essentials, including alabaster, glass, wood, furniture, household appliances, kitchen utensils, and foodstuffs. Libya's demand for Egyptian fruits, vegetables, and canned food has increased.

Egyptian exporters and Libyan importers have agreed on various transactions, on the condition that they be paid in advance. The blockade on Libya caused a considerable increase in Egyptian-Libyan trade last week. Exporters and businessmen expect the volume of overland trade between the two countries to reach 400 million Egyptian pounds [$130 million] per week. Exporters expect Egyptian-Libyan trade to increase more in the coming days.

Reasons for UN Resolution on Libya Discussed

NC1804154192 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Apr 92 p 5

[From the Raja' 'Abd-al-Malik column: "Every Day"]

[Text] Is it part of the new world order that the United Nations and the Security Council should become a tool in the hands of the United States and its Western allies?

Is this American credibility and is it applying one standard to dealing with the peoples, without discrimination or favoritism? What is the United States doing about the terrorist operations Israel is carrying out against the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories? We were astonished when the United States and its allies asked Libya to hand over two of its nationals charged with blowing up two planes—one American and one French—after more than four years.

Because these states have resolved to punish Libya, matters escalated rapidly. The UN Security Council issued Resolution 748 imposing harsh sanctions against Libya. It would have been more appropriate to apply such a resolution to Israel, which has often threatened and continues to threaten world peace.

The United States and its allies did the same thing with Iraq and we said that was just because Iraq was an aggressor. What has Libya done to merit having sanctions imposed against it? The problem is not that of the two planes downed and already forgotten, despite the complete objection to the policy of terror; the problem is that Libya is an Arab state seeking to acquire nonconventional weapons. Iraq's case is over and it has been divested of its weapons. Only Libya remains. The United States previously committed an aggression against Libya and attacked its chemical factory. The United States then decided that lesson was insufficient and it must teach Libya a harsher lesson. So, it exploited this crisis to keep Libya anxious and defensive, not thinking at all of acquiring any type of weapon, especially now that the arsenal of the Russian Commonwealth States [as received] is open to whoever pays.

This is the West's policy so that Israel may remain the only state in the region with an arsenal of nuclear weapons. As for the Arabs, they must remain powerless so that Israel may be reassured and continue to act belligerently as it wishes and so that there will be no solution or peace in the region other than that which Israel imposes by the force of its military and nuclear arsenal.

Egyptian, Kuwaiti Assemblies Issue Communique

NC2204181092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1538 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—Egypt and Kuwait have praised the pioneer roles played by President Husni Mubarak and Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah in addressing issues of justice, security, and peace on the international level, in seeking to develop and ensure Arab and Gulf security, and in highlighting the importance of continued cooperation between the two fraternal countries as an essential brick in the structure of Arab solidarity. These words came in a joint communique released today on the 18-21 April talks between the People's Assembly delegation, led by Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur, and a delegation from the Kuwaiti National Council, led by Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id.

The communique emphasized full support for the just Kuwaiti demand for the immediate and unconditional release of all Kuwaiti POW's and detainees held by the ruling regime in Iraq and for exerting all possible efforts to achieve this goal. It called on all competent international organizations to shoulder their humanitarian and moral responsibilities and to pressure the Iraqi regime to release these POW's and detainees.

The communique noted both parties' concern in advancing the Middle East peace talks to reach a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging land for peace, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Both sides appealed to the Arab countries to strongly back the Arab negotiators to work out a unified Arab formula on all current issues to foil Israel's attempts to stall and impose a de facto policy.

The two parties stressed that they understand the challenges of the emerging new world order, which require serious efforts to safeguard the Arab nation's interests and guarantee that their issues will remain within the interests of the new international community.

The communique called for clear and realistic foundations to be laid for a new system of Arab security within the framework of the principles of international collective security and the Arab League Charter. It called for a unified Arab formula based on common interests in all security and economic fields.

The two parties expressed mutual desire to strengthen bilateral cooperation in all spheres of national action. The communique stressed the importance of continued meetings and dialogue between the two bodies to support the fraternal ties and to promote parliamentary activities. Al-Masa'id expressed the feelings of love and pride that the fraternal Kuwaiti people and government have for the Egyptian people and their wise leadership. He expressed his deep appreciation for noble Egypt's position and principled commitment to backing the principles of right, justice, and legitimacy.

Formation of New Arab Democratic Party Approved

NC1904185792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1641 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—The Higher Administrative Court today overruled the decision by the Parties Affairs Committee rejecting the formation of the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party [al-Hizb al-'Arabi al-Dimuqraqi al-Nasiri]. Meanwhile, the court rejected the lawsuit calling for the formation of the Egyptian Socialist Party [al-Hizb al-Ishtraki al-Misri].

Giving reasons for its ruling on the suit filed by Dia'-al-Din Dawud acting on behalf of the founders of the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party, the court said that the party's declared programs and policies note that its main objective is to set up a single Arab country by democratic means, that it is opposed to violence and bloody struggle, and that it believes in the experience of the Egyptian people as drafted by the basic documents of the 23 July revolution of 1952. The party believes that these documents could lead to [word indistinct] of science and faith, political freedom, and social freedom. [passage omitted]

'Revolutionary' Regimes in New World Order Viewed

NC1904093792 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Apr 92 p 5

["A Word of Love" by Muhammad al-Haywan]

[Text] Revolutionary regimes in the Arab world must go and leave government for the people, because the new world order does not bear and deal with revolutionary regimes.

The new world order wants free nations that govern themselves and decide their fates by themselves. The new world order does not accept dealings with the likes of Kim Il-song, al-Qadhdhafi, Saddam Husayn, al-Bashir, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, or others. This brings to mind the fall of Honecker, Zhivkov, and other communist party leaders.

Before President Bush took office, the world consisted of three parts: the free world, the communist world, and the world hanging in between, which was neither free nor communist and used to be called the fluid world. The Arab world is included in this category.

The communist world has become free, the communist flags have fallen, the communist world has come closer to the free world, Russia has begun to follow in the steps of the United States, Hungary has become nearer to Italy, and Poland has become a modified version of Germany, while the Arab world has remained stagnant, governed by individuals and disputed by various currents. In this Arab world there are regimes that call themselves revolutionary and claim they are defending their nations while in fact they are destroying them.

Libya and Algeria are examples of this. Although rich, these states have wasted everything through corruption and conspiracies.

These revolutionary regimes have until now committed mistakes and they find demagogues who promote their mistakes, defend them, and justify their frailties. Awkwardly, there are people in the Arab world who still defend Saddam and al-Qadhdhafi. Anyone who advocates nations' dignity and freedom ought to realize that Saddam is disastrous for the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples, that al-Qadhdhafi is disastrous for the Libyan people, that al-Bashir rules Sudan against the Sudanese people's will, and that Algeria's coup shows that it is against the freedom of elections and expression.

We must assert nations' right to freedom. If we are on the side of the Libyan people, we should call for the resignation of al-Qadhdhafi. We should also demand the dismissal of Saddam so that the Gulf may be stable, demand the dismissal of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih so that the Yemeni people can reconcile with the Gulf nations, and demand that al-Bashir rest so that calm can be restored in Sudan, because nations outlast their rulers. A ruler may enjoy legitimacy, but this legitimacy is temporary and diminishes with his assassination, death, or a coup against him. It is better for this legitimacy to end with his resignation while the nation recovers its right to self-determination.

The United States, claimant, leader, and pioneer of the new world order, encourages this and advocates all people's freedoms. But amid the throng of events, the United States forgets the Palestinian people, although they exist and have rights. All Israeli efforts have not succeeded in destroying them. Perhaps the Palestinian people have fought themselves more than Israel and the Arabs have fought against them.

U.S. Relations With Syria, Saudi Arabia Noted

NC2304100292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—In their commentaries Thursday, the newspapers AL-AKHBAR and AL-AHRAM denounce the organized campaign of hatred directed against Syria and Saudi Arabia in some U.S. press and Congress circles.

AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that the anti-Syria campaign aims to raise doubts about this Arab country and accuse it of participating in certain terrorist operations. The paper adds that this accusation, which still stands, (?will not) clear without a noticeable improvement in relations between the U.S. Administration and the Syrian leadership, as demonstrated by the interest U.S. President Bush and Secretary of State Baker showed to urge Syria to take part in the Middle East peace process. [sentence as received] This led to a Syrian agreement to send a delegation to the peace talks.

AL-AKHBAR adds that this development in U.S.-Syrian relations is very worrying to Shamir's government, which announced its rejection of any talks over Syria's Golan Heights, claiming that they are vital for its security. The paper points out that this is where the Zionist organizations in the United States started their fierce campaign to darken Syria's image. It all began with the suspicious story published in the U.S. magazine TIME on Syria's involvement in blowing up the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in 1988. The paper expects further charges to surface in the U.S. media working for the Zionist groups and inside the U.S. Congress in an attempt to shake up the Syrians in the peace talks.

The paper calls on Syria to stay away from any actions that could arouse suspicions and enhance the Zionist campaign against it at this stage, including Syria's intention to violate the air embargo implemented by the Security Council resolution against Libya. Such a step, regardless of its motivations, will bring Syria unnecessary troubles.

AL-AKHBAR concludes its commentary by saying that the situation that the entire Arab world is currently facing needs to be tackled with extra reason and prudence.

For its part, AL-AHRAM refers to the current campaign against Saudi Arabia under which the U.S. press claims that in 1986 and after the Gulf war, Saudi Arabia provided U.S. weapons to Iraq, Syria, and Bangladesh, in violation of U.S. laws prohibiting arms reexports to a third country without the U.S. President's approval. The paper points out that this anti-Saudi campaign is not strange because its very circumstances almost certainly confirm that it is a premeditated and expected move. It followed the criticism that Israel came under by some U.S. officials accusing it, without directly naming it, of reexporting the technology of the most modern U.S. weapons to China, Ethiopia, and other countries.

The paper notes that this campaign came at the end of a research conference held by pro-Israeli U.S. political powers to direct the Zionist lobby on how to address U.S. public opinion, particularly during the U.S. elections. The campaign is in continuation of the clear line pursued by the anti-Arab quarters to distort their image abroad and blame them for all atrocities, in a bid to weaken their negotiating position and their public image in the West.

The paper adds that these anti-Saudi charges were promptly denied by U.S. officials when they surfaced, noting that the whole episode is simply an error through which some weapons were sneaked into other shipments not subject to the prohibition. [sentence as received] The Zionist influence, however, is trying to reopen a file that has been long closed in an attempt to cover up the suspicions surrounding Israel's sale of U.S. technology to other countries and to heckle the U.S. Administration, which is opposed to granting loan guarantees to Israel.

Garang-Led Secessionists' Request for Arms Denied

NC2204164892 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 20 Apr 92 p 1

[Report by Sa'id Jamal-al-Din]

[Text] AL-AHRAR has learned that the Egyptian Government turned down a request by the John Garang-led secessionist movement in southern Sudan to supply it with weapons, including anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns and light weapons. The movement proposed to pay half of the $250-million deal in advance.

The government, however, rejected the deal saying that it does not interfere in Sudan's internal affairs.

Mauritania

Presidential Decree Announces New Cabinet Members

LD2004222292 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Excerpts] The final draft of the new Mauritanian cabinet was announced by a presidential decree today. Here is the text of the decree:

Decree No. 32/92 appointing the government. [passage omitted]

First article: The following are respectively appointed:
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation—Mohamed Abdrahmane Ould Moine
Minister of Defense—Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih
Minister of Justice—Sow Abou Demba
Minister of Interior, Post, and Telecommunications—Hasni Ould Didi
Minister of Finance—Kane Acheikh
Minister of Planning—Mohamed Ould Michel
Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy—Ahmed Ould Ghanahallah
Minister of Commerce, Handicraft and Tourism—Rachid Ould Saleh
Minister of Mines and Industry—(Lemrabet Sidi Mahmoud Ould Cheikh Ahmed)
Minister of Rural Development and Environment—(Mahfoud Ould Dach)
Minister of Equipment and Transportation—(Mohamed Ould Lamar)
Minister of Water Supply and Energy—Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed
Minister of National Education—Sghaier Ould Mbareck.
Minister of Civil Service, Labor, Youth, and Sports—Moctar Ould Haye
Minister of Health and Social Affairs—Moudi Mohamed Kamara
Minister of Culture and Islamic Orientation—Boubaker Ould Ahmed
Minister of Contacts and Relations With Parliament—Ismail Ould Yahi
Secretary of State for Arab Magreb Union Affairs—Cheikh Ould Ali
Secretary of State for Literacy and Traditional Education—Khattri Ould Taleb Jiddou
Secretary of State for Women's Affairs—Mariam Mint Ahmed Aicha
Secretary General of the Government—(Ba Silay)

Article Two: This decree is to be published in the official newspaper.

[Signed] Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, Nouakchott, 20 April 1992

Morocco

Union Leader Sentenced in 'Political Trial'

LD2104153592 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Excerpts] News in Morocco: The day after the verdict in the trial of the secretary general of the Democratic Confederation of Labor [CDT], Noubir Amaoui was sentenced to two years' imprisonment by the Rabat high court. This morning the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP], of which Noubir Amaoui is also a member, met in Rabat. We go now to Patrick Hadant:

[Hadant] As soon as the verdict was handed down the leadership bodies of the USFP held a meeting, which is continuing this weekend. It is only in 24 or 48 hours' time that we will know if this party intends to respond to the sentence of Noubir Amaoui with actions on the ground. The lawyers have already appealed and the USFP leadership says it has contacted the other opposition parties and Moroccan human rights organizations on the matter. The USFP plans to send a report to the Human Rights Consultative Council concerning the conditions in which the trial took place. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Right now we have a first reaction from the No. 2 man in the USFP, Mohamed Yazghi, speaking to Patrick Hadant:

[Yazghi] I would say that it is a scandalous verdict, and the conditions under which this trial took place—clearly this is perhaps a first in our country, even though Morocco has seen many political trials in its history—but the conditions under which this trial took place are incredible. It reminds one of trials in Chile after 1973. There is no other viable comparison—not just the way in which the lawyers were treated, many of whom were struck, hit, journalists also, the public, because the hearing was in public—in fact all means of prevention were employed, and there was even pressure on the press not to cover this trial, which however is a political trial, whether this is admitted or not. It is a political trial, and the verdict is a political verdict.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Says Nation 'Clean From Terrorism'

EA1704152092 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Apr (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council, General al-Bashir has commented on the mass media campaign which links Sudan with terrorism. He said that Sudan's record throughout its history, has been clean from terrorism.

In his periodical meeting with the mass media executives here Wednesday [15 April] Gen al-Bashir expressed Sudan's rejection to link Islam and the Arabs with terrorism. He explained that Western mass media campaign attacks the Sudan under the guise of human rights while ignoring the recruitment of children by the rebel movement.

Gen al-Bashir went on to say that we do not expect an equity from Western mass media because Sudan has become a target for its newly-adopted policies that brought back its freedom and dignity.

Al-Bashir Terms Relations With Syria 'Profound'

EA1704151592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Apr (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, has emphasized Sudan-Syria profound relations which were not affected by the different political stances during the Gulf War. In an enlightenment meeting with the leader of information [as received] held Wednesday [15 April] at the Council of Ministers, Gen al-Bashir said the invitation which had been extended to him by the Syrian Government to visit Syria stresses the historical relations between the two countries.

New Province Created in Upper Nile

EA2004213592 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has issued a decree today establishing a new province in Upper Nile State. The province is called Fashoda Province.

The decree names Kodok as the capital of the province.

His excellency also issued another decree appointing (?Major) Adok Yang Anikor commissioner for Fashoda Province.

Foreign Minister Denies Training Camp Allegations

PM2204103292 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 17 Apr 92 p 27

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ajjaj] How do you view Egyptian-Sudanese relations in recent days, particularly after the meeting of the political committee in charge of solving the Hala'ib problem?

[Sahlul] I believe that we have entered a new phase of calm, without the emotion that used to characterize the statements of some officials, and more so, the media. Now they have calmed down, changed their attitude, and appear to be more optimistic. At least a special mechanism for tackling the problems between the two countries has started. So long as there is agreement on a certain mechanism, with political supervision driving it forward, I believe that we are starting along the road to developing bilateral relations for the better. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Leaving aside Egyptian-Sudanese relations, do you have an answer to the reports claiming that Sudan has embraced terrorism and opened training camps for fundamentalists who pose a threat to neighboring states' security?

[Sahlul] We do not know the meaning of terrorism and in whose interest such claims are made. Does it mean blowing up and shooting down planes or blowing up buildings in foreign capitals? What we are doing is training our Sudanese youth in the use of arms so that they can defend their land and their honor in the circumstances that Sudan is passing through. The camps cited by the reports are Sudanese camps belonging to the Popular Defense Forces, which Sudanese youth join for a limited period of two or three months, after which they return to their colleges or jobs.

There are also camps for training volunteers who receive longer periods of training in order to support the armed forces in field operations in the South in defense of the country's borders. They are all Sudanese. I do not believe that training Sudanese citizens in their own territory and country and in the context of the compulsory service law can be described as training terrorists to threaten other states' interests and security. We ask those who accuse us of importing terrorists in order to train them: Where are they, how many of them are there, and what is the purpose? Are there civil wars raging in Arab or Islamic states for us to assist in?

['Ajjaj] As for numbers, the reports speak of 5,000 members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and say that the training takes place in special camps around Khartoum.

[Sahlul] That is totally untrue. Can you imagine what would be needed to transport 5,000 Iranians? It would require an airlift. If one aircraft arrived every day

carrying 100 people, and considering that there is only one airport in Sudan—you work it out, work out how much time would be needed, keeping in mind that they would be cargo planes. Everyone would have noticed the airlift. Then I would ask: Did they come by sea? If so, it would have been easier to detect their movements and to photograph them at sea or in port. We have not seen any photographs in any of the papers or magazines which publish reports about Iranians receiving training in Sudanese camps. There are no more than a few dozen Iranians working in economic projects such as surfacing the coast road and building hospitals. They have started on one in Khartoum. They cooperate as experts, especially in the agricultural, social, and health services fields. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Do you not believe that the limited success of the Sudanese Army's military campaign in the South is the result of equipment received from Tehran and of military aid from there, as well as of the participation of some elements from there in running the operations?

[Sahlul] What do you mean by arms supplies? We receive equipment and ammunition from several states. The largest quantities came from states outside the Middle East and were purchased with our own money, without aid, grants, or loans to import arms and ammunition to be used against scores of rebels. Furthermore, to fight mutiny is the legitimate duty of any Khartoum government, both the current one and any other one. [passage omitted]

Report Notes Rebel Dissident Lam Akol Interview

EA1804173092 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Apr 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In a quick glance at the inside pages of the 18 April AL-INQADH AL-WATANI newspaper, we read on the last page [as heard] about Mr. Salih Muhammad Ali's lengthy interview with Lam Akol.

The following bold-print headlines are part of the interview. Lam Akol speaks to AL-INQADH AL-WATANI:

We are optimistic about peace and we have started serious and genuine talks with the government; the toppling of John Garang has been delayed because some of the leaders who had agreed to it and planned it with us did not stick to the implementation; the movement under Garang's leadership is devoid of clear objectives; I do not believe that the alliance parties believe in democracy; Mansur Khalid [former foreign minister] did not join the rebels and did not visit any area in the south; the southerners' main preoccupation now is peace, and we will join in any efforts for the realization of it; our correctionist movement is not a government production; Mengistu helped us a lot, but he made a disastrous mistake; Garang is training members of the Ummah Party in the south and Mubarak al-Fadil pours out money to Garang.

Minister Says West 'Obstructing' Oil Exports

JN2304124492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, has emphasized that the United States, Britain, and France are deliberately obstructing the attainment of a reasonable agreement between Iraq and the United Nations on selling oil and securing some of the basic civilian needs of the Iraqi people, particularly food and medicines. He said that they are doing this to realize tendentious political objectives.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that Iraq on several occasions has given its clear opinion on Resolutions 706 and 712, namely that the conditions and restrictions contained in these resolutions do not realize the basic objective of securing some of the basic civilian needs of the Iraqi people, particularly food and medicines. These conditions and restrictions serve political objectives which those three Western countries want to realize under the cover of the two aforementioned resolutions, especially the deduction of a high percentage of oil revenues to finance UN activities in Iraq and to pay funds to their agents under the disguise of reparations.

The minister said that in November 1991 UN General Secretariat officials conveyed to Iraqi officials the United Nations' desire and readiness to hold talks on oil sales with the aim of reaching a practical formula acceptable to both parties according to which quantities of oil would be exported to meet the Iraqi requirements for food, medicines, and other necessary civilian needs. Iraq has positively responded to this proposal and has shown readiness to reach a practical formula with the United Nations which realizes the basic objective of the process and avoids the tendentious political objectives which encroach on Iraq's sovereignty and its basic interests. On this basis Iraq has agreed with the United Nations to hold talks in Vienna.

He said that the first round of talks was held between 8 and 10 January 1992. In this round the two sides achieved good results and agreed on practical steps toward reaching an agreement on oil sales and the purchasing of required goods to export them to Iraq.

The two sides had also agreed to hold another round of talks on 5 February 1992 to discuss and reach an appropriate formula regarding the remaining points.

The minister added: Two days before 5 February 1992 the head of the UN delegation told us that certain changes and amendments had been introduced to the points and issues agreed upon in Vienna, and that these changes were imposed by the U.S., British, and French ambassadors. Upon studying these changes and amendments, it was clear that the new formula was substantially different from the stands expressed by the UN delegation in Vienna. This prevented the convening of the second round on schedule.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf added that when an Iraqi delegation led by the deputy prime minister visited New York in March, Iraq said that it was ready to resume talks without any preconditions.

The talks did resume between 26 and 28 March in Vienna. In this round the two sides achieved noticeable progress regarding several points on oil sales and the purchase of some of Iraq's civilian needs, provided that flexibility [al-shafafiyah] in selling and purchasing is guaranteed.

There were other points on which the two sides needed to consult with their authorities before resuming the talks later to agree on them.

He added: Before agreeing on the date and venue for the third round, however, we were informed that the representatives of the three Western nations, which are permanent Security Council members, began once again to exert pressure and to go back on the practical, objective stands that the UN delegation had accepted during the Vienna talks.

The minister of state for foreign affairs added that the experience of the past four months has shown that the three Western countries, which are Security Council permanent members, are pressuring the UN General Secretariat after each round of talks with Iraq, thereby forcing these UN officials to retract the logical and practical positions exhibited during the Vienna talks.

This pressure by the three Western countries, at a time when great progress has been realized on the Iraqi side concerning the implementation of Security Council resolutions, emphasizes what Iraq has always said, namely that the Westerners do not respond to Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations and its agreement to implement the Security Council resolutions with objective and fair positions toward alleviating the unjust siege imposed on the Iraqi people. They respond, however, by exerting more pressure and continuing the siege. This is a tendentious political stand against Iraq that has nothing to do with the implementation of Security Council resolutions.

The minister of state for foreign affairs emphasized that Iraq has agreed to sell oil provided there is flexibility in selling and purchasing. This is what the Security Council, as an institution, had originally wanted. Iraq does not accept having this subject exploited to realize colonialist objectives in Iraq, as desired by the United States, Britain, and France.

The minister reiterated his call for removing the obstacles imposed by representatives of the three Western countries. He also called on the Security Council members which do not share the tendentious political objectives of the three Western countries to understand Iraq's position and to lead the process in a manner that realizes the basic objectives.

Baghdad Accused of Harassing UN Officials

AU2304123492 Paris AFP in English 1219 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Geneva, April 23 (AFP)—Iraq has provoked an increase in "serious incidents" with United Nations officials after making it difficult for them to enter Kurdish-controlled northern areas, the U.N. office charged here Thursday.

The Iraqi Government, accusing the United Nations of seeking to "sabotage its economy," has for the last week demanded requests 48 hours in advance for U.N. vehicles wanting to enter Kurdistan, the office disclosed in a report. "If tankers (are) not allowed to pass through al-Mawsil en route for Dahuk, operations will be compromised," it warned.

"Serious incidents of harassment of U.N. personnel at government check points (are) on the rise," the organization said, adding that several relief workers had been detained arbitrarily.

The request for permission to drive into Kurdish areas must be made to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, but the United Nations has asked the government to repeal the obligation.

The Iraqi Defense Ministry meanwhile has ordered all U.N. vehicles to be submitted to searches for weapons and smuggled goods.

The Oil Ministry has in addition instructed gasoline stations not to service United Nations vehicles. Last week gasoline tankers from the International Organization of Migration (IOM) were blocked at Iraqi checkpoints in Dahuk province.

These measures—which the report said were part of the Iraqi Government's blockade on Kurdish areas—will compromise operations of the IOM, which is charged with repatriating Kurds.

No meeting of the U.N.-Iraq coordinating committee has been held since February 19 despite the problems, the report added.

Various U.N. agencies said the Iraqi actions have stirred unease and increased fear among its personnel in the field. A Sudanese working for the IOM was detained for three days by Iraqi forces who accused him of sending counterfeit money into Kurdistan. The official was simply carrying his monthly pay in Iraqi dinars, the U.N. office said.

On Sunday three members of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees were detained for five hours at a checkpoint where troops intended to check their vehicle. U.N. officials had to contact the Foreign Ministry in Baghdad to obtain their release.

Saddam Augments Relief Fund for Gulf War Victims

JN2204192892 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 22, INA—President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 30 millions Iraqi dinars to boost a fund for reliefing [as received] victims of the 30-states aggression against Iraq.

Acting Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Umid Midhat said that the new generous grant by the president came to ease pains and agony of those suffering from the aggression and to reconstruct what was destroyed by that treacherous aggression.

He pointed out that relief reparations would be given to those who had their houses destroyed during the aggression or the families that have lost the wife or husband and the disabled.

Letter to UN Protests Iran's 'Bad Intentions'

JN2204201192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] United Nations, 22 Apr (INA)—Iraq has emphasized that numerous Iranian acts of aggression demonstrate premeditated bad intentions against Iraq and seek to shake the security and stability along the border between the two countries.

This was stated in a letter sent by Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent UN representative, to the UN secretary general and distributed today as an official UN Security Council document.

The letter says that Iran has carried out numerous violations and organized infiltrations of subversive elements into Iraqi territory. These elements, the letter says, have murdered Iraqi citizens and destroyed and damaged their property, as well as state property, under the direct instigation of the Iranian leadership.

Iraq emphasized that it has documented evidence of these violations which seek to establish an Iranian-style regime.

The letter explains that captured Iranian Air Force Colonel Qasem Mohammad Amini confessed that the 5 April air attack against Iraq was originally scheduled to take place on 20 March but was later postponed to 5 April.

Vice President Criticizes Iran's 'Agent Role'

JN2204161192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has affirmed that the strugglers of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party will remain in the forefront to defend great Iraq and the Arab nation and to promote the march of reconstruction and jihad.

This came in remarks made by Taha Yasin Ramadan when he visited al-Hindiyah District. He was accompanied by Comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the Central Euphrates Ba'th Party organizations; 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Karbala' governor; and the comrade secretary and members of the Babil party branch command.

During a meeting with the comrade secretary and members of the party's al-Hindiyah section command, the vice president added: The enlightened people who are armed with principles cannot be undermined by rumors and the means of deception and lies being propagated by Zionist media and their agents and hired trumpets. He pointed out that these rumors and falsehoods, which are based on lying and deception, have been exposed and that the bright facts emanating from Iraq have stayed to blind the rancorous and the insincere.

Taha Yasin Ramadan went on to say: The Iranian regime continues to play its agent role and pursue a Zionist-U.S. policy against Iraq. The falsehood of its pretenses and slogans which it attempted to use to deceive the Iranian, Arab, and Islamic peoples has been exposed. He affirmed that the heroic Iraqis will achieve victory under the leadership of their courageous knight leader President Saddam Husayn.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, also visited al-Jadwal al-Gharbi Subdistrict accompanied by Comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the Central Euphrates Ba'th Party organizations; the Karbala' governor; and the comrade secretary and members of the Karbala' party branch command.

Taha Yasin Ramadan held two meetings in the capital city of al-Jadwal al-Gharbi Subdistrict and at the headquarters of the al-Jadwal al-Gharbi group command. The acting al-Hindiyah District officer, department heads in the district, and the secretary and members of the group command attended.

The vice president affirmed the importance of stepping up agricultural production, rendering services to citizens, and inventing formulas to maintain the equipment, machines, vehicles, installations, establishments, and headquarters which were hit during the 30-state aggression and the chapter of treason and treachery. He pointed out that what the mujahidin are doing in the course of this reconstruction and building drive and their reliance on their inventiveness and intrinsic potential are acts of defiance meant to thwart the unjust blockade.

Taha Yasin Ramadan urged continued efforts to mobilize people and enlighten them about the dimensions and objectives of the conspiracy and aggression against our great Iraq. He indicated that all links of the conspiracy have been broken thanks to the steadfastness and determination of our people's sons and their rallying around the unique leader His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

Taha Yasin Ramadan listened to a detailed explanation presented by the al-Hindiyah acting district officer and the al-Jadwal al-Gharbi subdistrict officer on the services being rendered to citizens, the preparations currently under way for the harvest campaign, and the efforts that the municipality of al-Hindiyah District and the municipality of al-Jadwal al-Gharbi Subdistrict have made to promote the march for reconstruction, building, improving the production of agricultural crops, building roads, and holding enlightenment seminars for all strata of society. The masses chanted for the life of leader President Saddam Husayn and shouted slogans expressing allegiance to his wise leadership. They also pledged to his excellency the president to remain loyal soldiers and productive builders, defying all forms of conspiracy, aggression, treason, and treachery.

PUK Reports Northern Combat Operations

NC2204151192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The radio station of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] [Voice of the People of Kurdistan] reports that the despicable tyrant's regime today [as heard] sent planes to shell an area in northern Iraq. The radio station said that two helicopters belonging to the tyrant's forces shelled Kurdish areas and that Kurdish forces inflicted losses on the tyrant's forces which had attempted to advance toward some areas. The radio station noted that the tyrant's troops attacked with tanks and artillery several areas in al-'Amarah Governorate but that the Iraqi popular forces countered the attack and forced the troops to withdraw. The radio station reports that during the battle 100 of Saddam's troops were killed and three tanks and four military vehicles were destroyed.

The radio station added that the attack against Qarah Hasan and (?Qarah Anjir) led to the damaging of several homes.

Opposition Reports Regime Shelling of Nojol

NC2204190892 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1707 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The dictator's forces artillery bombarded Kurdistan peshmerga centers near Nojol and nearby areas at 1045 yesterday. Peshmerga centers in [names indistinct] were also hit with artillery fire yesterday morning.

Peshmerga artillery returned the fire.

Kurdistan Front Schedules Leadership Election

NC2204173592 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] An official spokesman for the Political Bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan has said the following:

The Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Front today held a regular meeting in which it amended and then approved a draft law on electing a leader of the liberation movement in Kurdistan. According to the law the election will take place at the same time that elections for the Kurdistan parliament are held. The leader will be elected by an absolute majority vote.

Turkoman Leader Discusses Kurdish Elections

NC2204140292 Istanbul TURKIYE in Turkish 9 Apr 92 p 5

[Report by Mahmut Bulut]

[Text] Ankara—Muzaffer Arslan, secretary general of the National Turkoman Party of Iraq, said that it will not take part in an election which threatens Iraq's territorial integrity. Arslan defended the view that the election to be held in northern Iraq must not threaten Iraq's territorial integrity, adding: "Iraq must maintain its territorial integrity."

In reply to our questions on elections to be held in northern Iraq, Arslan said that despite its official application to the Kurdistan Front, which is organizing the elections, its could not get information concerning the election system.

Arslan noted the fact that the elections were postponed from 3 April to 23 April, adding: "The problems arising from the election system and natural conditions were given as the reasons for postponing the elections. We think that they have not yet given us information because they still do not have a proper election system."

"The Preparations Are Insufficient"

Muzaffer Arslan indicated that before the elections it will go to northern Iraq to meet with the Kurdish Front leaders. He pointed out that the work and preparations for elections are insufficient and that the elections might be postponed to an even later date.

Upon reminding him of Democratic Party of Kurdistan leader Masud Barzani's statement that he will give one seat to the Turkomans, Arslan responded: "We will decide on our participation after studying the election system. The effectiveness and functions of the assembly that emerges from the elections and the continuation of Iraq's territorial integrity would influence our decision. If it threatens Iraq's territorial integrity then we will not take part in it. So far we have not told anyone that we would take part in the elections and accept a seat. Also, we have not given them the right to decide on such things."

Arslan added that yet another reason for postponing the elections was the massing of a threat posed to the region by units loyal to Saddam Husayn.

Turkomans Are Being Oppressed

We asked: "What is the latest situation in Iraq's regions inhabited by Turkomans?" Arslan replied: "Intense oppression and detentions are continuing in regions inhabited by Turkomans. Our brothers in Tushurmat are under particularly strong pressure. There are too many detentions."

Kurdish Oil Company's Owner Interviewed

NC2204151292 Istanbul 2000 IKIBIN'E DOGRU in Turkish 5 Apr 92 p 17

[Interview with Kurdoil owner and director Serdar Pistderi by Cevat Korkmaz in Iraq's Kou Senjaq region; date not given]

[Text] [Korkmaz] What were you doing in England before entering the oil business?

[Pistderi] Actually, I am engaged in the import-export business. I trade with Middle East countries and mostly I concentrate on foodstuffs. When I received an offer to sell Kurdish petroleum, I accepted immediately. I saw that in addition to making money I would be helping my people. As an astute businessman, I saw good prospects in it and launched my initiative.

[Korkmaz] You are Kurdoil's owner and director. In your speeches you say that Kurdoil belongs to the Kurds. How are you going to share your earnings?

[Pistderi] Take note that I am saying "Kurdoil." That is, the company is that of all the Kurds. It does not belong to the Iraqi Kurds alone. Had it been that way I would have said Iraqi Kurdoil. I am the company's official representative. These people granted me a favor, they did me such an honor. I cannot betray them. I will not control the money made from this business. The money will be deposited in a bank and the relevant circles administering Kurdistan will have the right to manage this money.

[Korkmaz] Did anyone else enter this business?

[Pistderi] Yes. Talabani's men have applied to the United Nations, but they were rejected because of their status as politicians. I heard that Barzani held talks on the issue with Turkish officials, although I have no information on the talks' outcome. The world and the United Nations are not taking their requests seriously because they are politicians. I know Europe well; if permission is going to be granted it will be given to privately owned companies.

[Korkmaz] The Kurdish Front is considered to be the most serious entity running northern Kurdistan. You appeared on the scene as a man who emigrated to Europe

years ago, yet the United Nations is taking you seriously. Is this not a bit odd? Did you get support from the British Government?

[Pistderi] Certainly not. The Europeans are more favorably disposed toward the owners of capital than are the Middle Eastern countries. I have been living in London for years and I have paid my taxes and committed no crimes. I have money in banks and I want to run a fully legal business. I have not received help from any other country. What is special about me is that I paint the picture correctly and manage to convince the other side. I get my greatest support from the Kurdish people. I was a peshmerga before I settled in London. For years I was al-Mulla Mustafa Barzani's peshmerga. Now I am 44 and have 34 bullet wounds in my body. My left side is paralyzed. Even the British doctors could not take out the two pieces of shrapnel in my leg and back. I will die in peace if I help my people. My wish is to develop the Iraqi Kurds economically.

[Korkmaz] Will you open an office in Turkey?

[Pistderi] We have some contacts. The office would be an intermediary company receiving a commission. It will look after contacts in Turkey in the name of Kurdoil.

[Korkmaz] What if you could not get the necessary permission and could not sell the oil. What would you do then?

[Pistderi] I would load the tankers with thousands of tons of oil and take them to the Khabur border gate. Next, I would invite reporters from every country and would inform the world of the situation, stating: "Look, we are hungry and yet no one is buying our goods." If that doesn't work I would blow up all the oil tankers and the oil wells. I am ready to do this. Those who could not dare to face such an eventuality would act with more sensitivity.

[Korkmaz] How much did you spend on Kurdoil so far?

[Pistderi] I spent $500,000. All that was my money; I didn't get one piaster from anyone else. If need be I will spend as much again.

Report Says New Pro-Baghdad Kurdish Group Formed

JN2204190592 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Apr 92 pp 1, 10

[Text] The Autonomous Rule Region—AL-THAWRAH has learned that a new Kurdish mass organization calling itself "Iraq—Homeland for All" [al-'Iraq Watan al-Jami'] has recently cropped up in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

Informed sources told AL-THAWRAH that the main objective of the new organization is to oppose the ideas and practices of the agent forces, which are hostile to our Kurdish people's aspirations. This objective, the sources added, is manifested clearly in the slogan that the new organization upholds, which is "Iraq's territorial integrity is the guarantee for building a happier and brighter future."

The organization issued a statement declaring its founding. The statement was circulated in the Kurdistan Region. The statement called for demonstrating solidarity, waging struggle, and bearing arms to defend the national soil and purge it of the misled elements which were ensnared by the promises of the deceptive foreigners. Thus, the statement added, these elements slid onto the pathways of treason and agentry with the premeditated intention of fragmenting national unity and offering the homeland as a choice morsel for the savage fangs of imperialism and the claws of Zionism and its expansionist schemes.

Concluding its statement, the organization urged patriotic elements within the ranks of the combatants of national defense regiments, noble Kurdish tribes, and city dwellers to take part in efforts to thwart the conspiracy and to effect a return to the laps of the homeland and its national authority behind the banner of leader President Saddam Husayn, knight of the plains and eagle of the mountain.

Well-informed sources affirmed to AL-THAWRAH that irrespective of its entirely clandestine activities, this organization is holding contacts to expand its popular base and to open communications channels with the parties which have faith in the historic statement of 21 March and the autonomous rule experience and which also seek to promote the constitutional institutions of this rule and enhance their effectiveness.

Paper Warns Using 'Kurdish Card' To Fail

JN2204073992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Apr (INA)—In an article today AL-THAWRAH says that Iran's attempts to use Iraqi Kurds to achieve its aggressive objectives will end in failure.

AL-THAWRAH, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that the Kurdish card is now burning and will in the process burn whoever uses it.

Tehran is coordinating with Britain, America, and Israel on how to use the Iraqi Kurds to threaten Iraq's security, stability, and national unity, the paper maintains.

It adds that such a scheme, in which other regional parties are participating, will certainly end in failure because the Iraqi Kurds can no longer tolerate their being used in this ugly way to achieve colonialist objectives against Iraq, especially given that they have a long-standing experience in this regard which goes back to the thirties.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that after foreign parties leave the region when they discover that their attempts in this

respect are to no avail, it is the regional parties carrying out this conspiracy that will alone be burned by the Kurdish card.

Air Force Head Says '200 Targets' Downed in War

JN2204082392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0702 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Interview with Staff Pilot Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b Hasan, commander of the Air Force and air defenses, by a radio correspondent on the 61st anniversary of the establishment of the Air Force and air defenses; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Lieutenant General, our valiant Air Force has played a distinguished, effective role to which enemies, before friends, have testified, especially during the immortal battles of Saddam's glorious al-Qadisiyah and the epic of the Mother of Battles. We would like to talk about this subject.

[Hasan] Our Air Force played a distinguished role in Saddam's glorious al-Qadisiyah and it managed to record immortal epics of heroism. It also proved its ability to protect the skies of our beloved Iraq. [passage omitted]

Our Air Force and air defenses played an important role in the honorable Mother of Battles, in spite of the equipment mobilized by the evildoers, including more than 3,000 aircraft, supported by all command and control capabilities such as satellites and early warning systems.

Their primary aim was to neutralize our Air Force. Therefore, right from the start they began to strike at command and control and operations centers around the clock.

Our air defenses were engaged in a fierce battle for 42 days, during which they managed to shoot down 200 targets, including aircraft and missiles. Our air defenses emerged from the battle stronger, more experienced, and more prepared to face the covetous ones in any future confrontation.

On this occasion I extend my best congratulations to the symbol of our Iraq, the leader of victory and peace, Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. We pledge to his excellency to remain faithful soldiers to protect the skies, land, and sanctities of our beloved Iraq. May this occasion bode well for our Iraqi and Arab and Islamic nation. Thank you.

[Correspondent] We thank fighter Staff Pilot Lt. Gen. Muzahim Sa'b Hasan, commander of the Air Force and air defenses, who spoke to us on the 61st anniversary of the establishment of our heroic Air Force, the long arm of Iraq and the glorious Arab nation, which protects the skies of the dear homeland.

Comments on Desert Storm Damage

JN2204184392 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Apr 92 pp 28, 22

[Excerpt] Baghdad, news agencies—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, the mouthpiece of the Iraqi Armed Forces, said yesterday that "if a battle takes place the Iraqi Air Force is capable of defending Iraq's skies and retaliating doubly as powerfully."

The paper cited Air Force Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b Hasan as saying that "in the event of a new air attack against Iraqi territory Iraq will teach the enemy a lesson they will not forget."

The Iraqi military commander greatly played down the damage inflicted on the Iraqi Air Force during the Gulf war, saying "the enemy would be shocked if they knew the facts."

The paper said that these statements came out after Iraqi aircraft resumed their flights for the first time since the Gulf war following the Iranian air raids against Iranian opposition parties based in Iraq. [passage omitted]

Paper Scores Saudi 'Schemes' Against Iraq, Yemen

JN2304134192 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 23, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party today said that the rulers of Saudia are standing in the forward line of the agents who had devoted themselves for the service of plans of enemies of the Arab nation in conspiring against any honest masses national tendency towards liberation, unity and democracy.

The paper has said in an article that the approach of the Saudi politics has not changed since Britain and the United States blessed the establishment of the Saudi regime alternative to the Arab people in Najd and Hejaz up to now.

The paper made clear in its article the scandalous role performed by Fahd in justifying the US-led military aggression on Iraq, funding it and rendering the land of sanctities a base for that aggression and what he has practised of role in besieging our people of Iraq before the occurrence of the aggression and after it. And this gives an indication of the mission of this regime as servant to pass schemes of the aggressors on our people and nation.

The paper concluded its article by saying the hostile scheme against Yemen being practised by the junta of Fahd proves without any doubt continuation of this regime's involvement in tasks of aggression.

Minister Praises Jordan's 'Principled' Support

JN2304090192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Apr 92 p 4

[By 'Isam Qadamani]

[Excerpts] 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Ma'ini, Iraqi transportation and communications minister, has praised the principled and firm political stands adopted by Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn vis-a-vis the decisive issues that concern the Arab nation. In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Ma'ini expressed pride in and appreciation for the fraternal and sincere positions adopted by Jordan—the king, government, and people. He said that Iraq—its leadership and people—will not forget these stands, which Iraqis remember and continuously recall. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Sattar al-Ma'ini affirmed that Iraq will remain a state of the age of the industrial revolution. He noted that the Iraqis are now manufacturing spare parts that can make up for the shortages caused by the continuation of the blockade.

The minister described the repair and reconstruction work that was accomplished by the hands of Iraqis in record time as advanced compared with projects that took foreign companies four to five years to accomplish, particularly those related to bridges, communications centers, jetties, railroads, and others.

Health Official Says Embargo Kills 60,000 Children

JN2204143792 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 22, INA—Iraq on Tuesday said that over 60,000 children have died because of the U.N.-imposed sanctions on Iraq.

Health undersecretary, Dr Shawqi Murqus was quoted as saying the embargo on children's food and medicines had resulted in the death of more than 60,000 children under the age of five because of diarrhea, malnutrition and respiratory tract and communicable diseases.

He added that the embargo has also caused the death of some 84,016 Iraqi people due to chronic diseases such as cancer, blood pressure, cardiac diseases and diabetes.

Mr Murqus went on to say that medical aid which Iraq has already received amounted to no more than five percent of Iraq's actual needs.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health has reported some 108 bilharzia cases in Baghdad and other Iraqi provinces over the past two months.

Dr Hashim Minwir, head of Bilharzia Department at the Ministry of Health told IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) that health authorities have recorded three bilharzia cases in Baghdad and Wasit, 54 cases in Dhi Qar, ten in Maysan, eight in Diyala, 24 in al-Anbar, four in Babil and one case in each of al-Basrah and al-Najaf Provinces.

Dr Minwir blamed the spread of bilharzia on the U.S-led military aggression against Iraq and the U.N.-imposed sanctions which caused severe lack of pesticides and laboratory equipment needed to diagnose the disease.

He urged people to refrain from drinking contaminated food and water to avoid contracting the disease. [sentence as received]

Last month, a report issued by the Ministry of Health said over 21,000 Iraqis died in the first two months of this year.

The report said 8,018 children under the age of five died because of diarrhea, acute respiratory tract and intestinal infections and communicable diseases. Meanwhile, 13,698 people over the age of five died.

The report added that there was a sharp increase in the number of underweight newly-born babies in comparison with figures of the last four months of 1990.

It explains that the rate of babies weighing less than 2.5 kg born in January and February this year amounted to 16.8 per cent in the last four months of 1990. [sentence as received]

The report attributed the sharp rise to malnutrition caused by the embargo.

The Health Ministry report noted that in 1991, the number of people struck by malnutrition-related diseases reached 1,056,956.

Also last year, the number of major operations went down by 57 per cent in comparison with 1989. In that year there were 181,506 operations as opposed to 78,089 last year. Laboratory activity in Iraq dropped by 57 per cent.

The report gave figures of communicable disease cases in 1991. It said there were 186 cases of polio, 511 of diphtheria, 1,537 of whooping cough, 11,358 of measles, 848 of German measles, 936 of child tetanus, 23,529 of pneumonia, 22,718 of mumps, 880 of cholera and 17,524 cases of typhoid.

Also recorded were 58,311 cases of amoebic dysentery, 11,135 of hepatitis, 5,792 of meningitis, 7,105 local malaria, 3,713 of black fever, 196 of hemorrhage fever, 2,223 cases of bends, 1,787 of hydatid cysts, 1,892 of scabies and 256 cases of rabies.

Award System Seeks To Encourage Wheat Production

JN2304152892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that monetary awards be allocated to state employees in charge of collecting wheat and barley in the governorates. The following is the text of his excellency's order:

The leader president, may God preserve him, has ordered the following:

1. Monetary awards shall be given to state employees in charge of collecting wheat and barley in the governorates in accordance with bases to be prepared by both the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Interior and endorsed by the Council of Ministers, as follows:

A. The first award is 3 million dinars.
B. The second award is 2 million dinars.
C. The third award is 1.5 million dinars.
D. The fourth award is 1 million dinars.
E. Each governorate the employees of which perform their duties in full in accordance with the set standards shall be given 500,000 dinars, and the governorate which does not perform its required duties shall not be entitled to this.

2. When setting the bases the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Trade shall take into consideration the distribution of the governorate's full award to its various districts. The district the employees of which neglect their duties shall be deprived of this award even if the governorate has won any of the awards, including the fifth award.

Minister Notes State Subsidies for Wheat, Barley

JN2204193492 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Apr 92 p 4

[By Subhi Jasim]

[Excerpt] Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has said that the state is subsidizing bread according to leader President Saddam Husayn's new noble gesture. The government has increased its payment for farmers' wheat and barley by 4.5 billion dinars.

Accordingly, the citizen will pay only 3 percent of the cost of bread while the state will pay 97 percent of the cost. Although 1 kg of flour will cost the state 2.58 dinars, the citizen will pay only 0.115 dinars by using ration cards.

This was announced during the extensive meeting which the minister held yesterday with silo managers and which was attended by local press correspondents and the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY representative.

Salih emphasized the need to intensify the work of all those working in the silos to streamline the process of filling the silos and distributing grain. [passage ommited]

Labor Criticizes Decorations for IDF Officers

TA2204135192 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] The Labor party reacted furiously to statements made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at a ceremony in which he awarded Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Defender decorations. Shamir said: "Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are ours, and will remain ours forever and ever." He added: "We are not settling those areas in order to return them; we are settling in order to live." IDF [Israel Defense Forces] generals also attended the ceremony.

Knesset Member [MK] Hayim Ramon, head of Labor's Knesset faction, last night sent a cable to Defense Minister Arens expressing his astonishment and anger that Arens had permitted IDF generals to participate in a ceremony of a deeply controversial political nature. Ramon demanded that Arens order IDF officers and soldiers to refrain from participating in any political ceremonies. "You, as defense minister, should show greater sensitivity, especially now, during an election campaign, and keep the IDF out of the political maelstrom," Ramon wrote. Ramon also vehemently attacked Prime Minister Shamir and said he was making cynical political use of the IDF and its generals by forcibly involving them in a clearly political event.

Labor Secretary Mikha Harish attacked the prime minister's statements at the ceremony. Harish said the settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip had now joined the long list of those taken in by Shamir's promises—promises that are not worth the paper they are written on or the breath wasted to utter them. Harish added that "Shamir's extremist statements once more prove that there is no difference between Shamir, Beni Begin, and the Likud; and Rehav'am Ze'evi, Ge'ula Kohen, or Refa'el Eytan," who all belong to the extreme right.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 22 April reports: "The defense minister's adviser rejected the criticism leveled against the decoration of the Central and Southern Command commanders on behalf of the settlements of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Arens' adviser pointed out that the residents had wanted to thank the senior officers for the excellent way they discharged their duties. Meretz MK Yosi Sarid called for the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee to be convened to discuss the matter." The report adds: "Sarid said that Major Generals Vilna'i and Yatom acted against orders laid down by the IDF's high command. The Peace Now movement has sent a protest cable to the chief of staff."]

Arens Defends IDF Awards

TA2304113192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The decorations received by the commanders of the Central and Southern Commands from the settlers of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza were approved by myself and by the chief of staff. This was stated by Defense Minister Arens, who added that terrorists turn themselves in to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units in the territories every day. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik heard the defense minister:

[Begin recording] [Semrik] This weekend, the Druze community will celebrate the al-Nabi Shu'ayb holiday. Defense Minister Moshe Arens flew to the Galilee Druze villages, where he was received by dozens of shaykhs and notables. In the course of the visit, the minister said he does not understand the commotion raised around the decorations the Judaea and Samaria settlers awarded the commanders of the Central and Southern Commands.

[Arens] The presence of the commanders of the Southern and Central Command during the event at which the decorations were awarded was approved by both the chief of staff and myself. I do not see any room for the allegations I hear. Through these two majors general, the representatives of the population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip awarded a decoration to the IDF, in fact, for IDF activity in safeguarding the security of the population—especially the Israeli one—in these areas.

[Semrik] Referring to IDF activity in the territories, the defense minister said he understands the terrorist organizations' fears. Terrorists turn themselves in daily thanks to this IDF activity, the defense minister said. [end recording]

Israel To Reject European, Diaspora Role

TA2304104992 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Apr 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Drora Perl]

[Excerpt] With the fifth round of peace talks in Washington expected to begin on 27 April, the U.S. Administration clearly has little expectations for it. The very fact of the parties' getting together, the continuation of the discussions, and the agreement to move to Rome for the next round are being stressed as positive points that are a given, but carry no substantive obligations.

It has been learned that the heads of Israel's delegations to the bilateral and multilateral negotiations will apparently meet next week with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. They will attempt to persuade Baker to hold a round of talks in Rome before the Israeli elections and will broach the profound disagreement between Israel and the United States on the issue of the multilateral negotiations.

Israel fears that the United States is about to issue the invitations to the multilateral peace talks despite the differences regarding the participation of the Palestinian diaspora and despite Israel's warning that it might not attend the discussions. Political sources have reported that such a U.S. move will exacerbate the crisis over the

multilateral talks, but it seems that so far this possible outcome has not deterred the United States from this move.

On the other hand, the Americans have reservations regarding the European demand that they attend the armament supervision committee on an equal status with the cosponsors: the United States and Russia. Jerusalem sources believe that the United States is, in fact, offering Israel an exchange deal according to which it will support Israel's opposition to European participation in return for an Israeli concession on the issue of representation from the Palestinian diaspora. The sources reported, however, that Israel has no intention of making any concessions on this issue, nor does it intend to accept U.S. offers to send "observers" to the two committees in which representatives of the Palestinian diaspora are to take part.

While some 80 people are to leave on 26 April for a week of talks in Washington, political sources admit that no breakthrough is to be expected; all they want is "to sustain the momentum," as they put it. The Israeli delegation intends to return to Israel after four days of talks—meaning 30 April—although it might extend its stay due to U.S. pressure.

It appears that Israel does not intend to make the Palestinians a well-defined offer regarding elections, and it is not at all certain that the discussions will broach this issue. Israel and the Palestinians have not yet agreed on an agenda, and there is no certainty that they will overcome this obstacle during the brief round of talks on Monday.

In any event, Israel's position regarding the elections is similar to that held by the defense establishment in its contacts with the residents of the territories: Israel is willing to hold municipal elections in every city that wants them. The defense establishment supports this stand independently of the peace process, and this is the maximum Israel is currently willing to offer the Palestinians regarding elections.

Political sources in Jerusalem last night confirmed that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has, in fact, rescinded the offer to hold general elections in the territories based on the government's peace initiative of May 1989. Political sources said that Israel would be willing to reconsider the offer for general elections if significant progress is made in the peace process. [passage omitted]

Shamir on Efforts To Free Spy Suspect Ovitz

TA2304112192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Apr 92 pp 1, 7

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and Cairo-based correspondent Smadar Peri]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has changed his mind about his intention to call Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and ask him to release furniture dealer David Ovitz, who has been detained in an Egyptian prison for more than two months.

All the necessary arrangements for the conversation between the two were made by the prime minister's and President Mubarak's bureaus through Israel's Embassy in Cairo two days ago. Following a reassessment by the prime minister's bureau and officials dealing with the Ovitz affair, however, they concluded that at this time, even a Shamir appeal to Mubarak will not secure Ovitz's release.

Yesterday Shamir said that "no progress has been made so far in our efforts to free Ovitz, who is being held in prison in Egypt despite the fact that he is innocent."

The prime minister will wait for the results of efforts by the Foreign Ministry and by international elements who have been asked to address the Egyptian Government before he decides how to act.

A source at the Cairo presidential palace told a YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent last night: "If Israel's president appeals to President Mubarak on the Ovitz issue, the president will respond, just as he responds to any appeal made to him. He will find the time to review Ovitz's file and will request that the issue be given priority treatment. Nonetheless, only if it becomes apparent that Ovitz is innocent will he be freed immediately. If no appeal is made and he is found innocent, he will be freed upon the termination of the current detention term, in approximately 35 days."

The source hinted last night that it would be better if the president, rather than the prime minister, were to appeal to Mubarak.

At the same time, he pointed to the fact that many detainees, including Egyptian VIP's, spend months in detention before their case is looked into.

Syrian Ship Departs After Repair Bill Settled

TA2204144792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The Syrian ship that ran into trouble off Israel's shores last week sailed away this afternoon. The ship and the crew left after the bill incurred for repair work was settled.

Arab Notables Meet With Egypt's al-Baz

TA2204151592 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Apr 92 p 3

[Report by Muhammad Khalayla]

[Text] Knesset Members [MK's] 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah and Muhammad Mi'ari, and Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, the head of the Committee of Arab Local Councils, met on 20 April with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, President Husni Mubarak's political adviser. They asked him to intervene personally to secure the release of the

al-Misrati family members and David Ovitz, who are held in prison in Egypt. According to them, al-Baz said this was a legal problem in which political echelons do not normally intervene, but that out of respect for their request, he would check to see whether the imprisoned Israelis' investigation could be accelerated and their release obtained.

The three men were invited by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry for a three-day visit. In the meeting with al-Baz, they broached a series of problems encountered by Israeli Arabs. They focused on the possibility of Israeli Arab students attending Egyptian universities, such as al-Azhar. They also probed the possibility of Egypt appealing to Saudi Arabia concerning the number of Israeli Muslim pilgrims to Mecca and the abolition of the 3,000-person limit.

In a telephone conversation with DAVAR, they denied having discussed with Dr. al-Baz the establishment of a joint Arab list that would include the Arab Democratic Party, the Progressive List for Peace, and the Independent Arab Movement. They admitted, however, that the impending Israeli election, as well as the Israeli Arabs' position on the issue, had been discussed in general terms. They said they realized that Egypt followed a policy of nonintervention in other countries' domestic affairs.

It has been learned that MK Mi'ari, who returned yesterday alone to Israel, seemed disappointed. Darawshah and Nimr Husayn are expected to return today.

'Ashrawi Rejects Discussion of Municipal Elections

TA2204181092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Palestinian representatives to the next round of peace talks leave tomorrow for Amman on their way to Washington. Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi told reporters that members of the delegation will join Faysal al-Husayni in the Jordanian capital.

On substantive issues, 'Ashrawi said the Palestinians refuse to discuss Israeli plans for municipal elections in the territories. Instead, she said, they will again raise their proposal for the establishment of an autonomous government in the territories.

Palestinians Set Up Council, Depart for Amman

TA2304072892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The leaders of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks left for Amman this morning en route to Washington for the round of talks scheduled to take place there next week. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Attorney Ziyad Abu-Zayyad said that the Palestinians have established an advisory council on strategic issues. It will be headed by PLO official Nabil Sha'th and will include representatives from the territories and from the Palestinian diaspora.

Undercover Troops Shoot 2 Arabs 'Without Warning'

TA2204181992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Sabr Raha, aged 32, an inhabitant of Zababidah in the Gaza Strip, was murdered by masked men today. His body was taken to a hospital in Gaza. He was murdered in the course of a violent interrogation about suspicions that he collaborated with the authorities.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a firebomb was thrown at an Army patrol in the Jabalyah refugee camp. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. The soldiers returned fire, and, according to Arab sources, a 60-year-local inhabitant was wounded in the leg and taken to a hospital for treatment.

Two passengers were lightly wounded when their cars came under a hail of stones in Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that a tourist was cut in the ear by glass shards when his rental car came under a hail of stones in the Abu-Tor neighborhood. The tourist was taken to the hospital in an ambulance.

An Israeli bus was pelted with stones in Sultan Sulayman Street in East Jerusalem, and one passenger was lightly wounded but did not require medical treatment.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 22 April adds: "A senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer took statements this evening from two Israelis who say they saw an IDF undercover unit shoot and wound two masked Arabs without a warning, or without there being any apparent danger to the lives of the soldiers." The report also states: "Although the IDF spokesman says initial investigation showed that all the soldiers involved had acted in an accordance with Army regulations...the head of Central Command has appointed a senior officer to investigate the matter further. His report is expected within 24 hours."]

Cabinet Adopts Economic Austerity Policy

NC2304093892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Statement read by Muhammad Jarudi, minister of industry and oil and acting information minister, following a cabinet meeting in Beirut on 22 April—recorded]

[Text] The president opened the session by congratulating the Eastern Christian communities on the occasion of Easter, wishing all the Lebanese happy Easter and better times than today. The prime minister also extended Easter greetings to the members of the Orthodox community and all citizens.

The cabinet then studied the topics on its agenda, and approved most of them.

The Bank of Lebanon governor, the third deputy governor Dr. Marwan Ghandur, the director general of the Finance Ministry, and the members of the committee tasked with preparing a financial economic plan then joined the meeting. The committee presented its report to the cabinet. The cabinet thanked the committee for its study and reviewed the main outlines of the report, which it then discussed in details.

To tackle the spiraling inflation burdening the Lebanese people and launch the plan to enhance the country's financial and economic situation, the cabinet decided to adopt a strict austerity policy in all fields. It also approved many proposals contained in the economic experts committee's report. As a first step, the cabinet decided to set the following ceilings and adopt the following measures proposed in the experts' report:

1. Set a ceiling for public sector expenditure in 1992 not to exceed 1.7 trillion Lebanese pounds.

2. Set a ceiling for the deficit in the public sector budget not to exceed 35 percent this year.

3. Set a ceiling for borrowing from the Bank of Lebanon not to exceed 10 percent of the expenditure.

4. Increase public revenues to at least 1.1 trillion pounds in 1992 and make efforts to ensure a complete balance between revenues and expenditure in the coming years. The government will adopt the necessary measures to achieve these ceilings and increases.

5. Program public expenditure on a periodic basis to allow a regular review of the administration's financial performance and evaluate the effectiveness of the adopted measures.

6. Ask the Bank of Lebanon to ensure order in the money market in cooperation with the Banks Association to check the unjustified nervousness in this market.

The cabinet decided to remain in session. It will hold an extraordinary session 23 April to issue a second batch of measures to complete the implementation of the plan. It also decided to hold successive sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday next week to discuss the information policy that must accompany the economic and financial plan and to discuss other financial and administrative measures.

Strike Staged To Protest Conditions

NC2204095292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] In response to the call for a strike made by the Labor General Federation [LGF], the teachers union, and the trade unions to protest the deteriorating financial and economic conditions and the high cost of living, a total general strike was staged in Beirut and various other Lebanese areas today.

Public and private institutions, schools, and stores closed down and traffic came to a complete standstill in the streets. Beirut Airport also joined the strike and suspended operations for two hours, from 0900 to 1100.

At 1100, about now, a popular demonstration will take off from the al-Barbir area and proceed to the Chamber of Deputies in al-Najmah Square.

Reports from Tripoli, Sidon, Tyre, and al-Nabatiyah speak of a complete shutdown and popular demonstrations proceeding to the governorates' headquarters. Ba'labakk, however, did not participate in the strike and maintained normal activities.

In a speech this morning, LGF Chairman Antoine Bisharah called for the unity and solidarity of the people so that the strike may succeed and the present conditions may be resolved.

Because of the strike, the Bank of Lebanon, the Beirut stock exchange, banks, and financial institutions closed down. No bulletin on the exchange rates and the price of gold was issued today.

Syrian Forces Withdraw From Airport Area

NC2304085292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Security sources have confirmed that Syrian forces withdrew from their positions in the Pepsi-Cola building near the airport this morning. The Syrians were replaced by Lebanese Army units.

The Syrian forces also withdrew from their positions inside the airport, keeping only one position manned by two soldiers. The airport security apparatus was beefed up by three Lebanese Army companies yesterday.

Israelis Build New Post, Add to 'Security Strip'

NC2204173192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces in the south have completed the construction of a new post on al-Rayhan Hill, 300 meters away from an Agent Lahd militia center. The occupation forces have annexed 4 more kilometers of land and added 4 kilometers to the so-called security strip.

Afghanistan

'Serious Divisions' Among Rival Mojahedin Remain

BK2304094492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0920 GMT 23 Apr 92

[by RENE SLAMA]

[Text] ISLAMABAD, April 23 (AFP)—Serious divisions remain among rival Pakistan-based mojahedin groups, fuelling fears of a deterioration of the situation in Kabul.

"The mojahedin chiefs cannot agree with each other," an Afghan guerrilla commander said, summing up in one sentence the state of relations between the groups as the Afghan capital stands at their mercy.

"Any attempt to take Kabul by force will lead to a miserable failure...We hope they don't do it," Najibollah Lafraie, head of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami political department, told AFP.

He was referring to Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami (Party of Islam)—which threatens to attack Kabul on Sunday—and which has appealed to the mojahedin to withdraw their support from those "opportunist elements" who in their "lust for power" and are supporting the damned militia.

The group says its fighters have already had a serious clash with militiamen allied with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud who it claims attacked one of its bases to the south of Kabul.

In short, while most government troops and mojahedin fighters, weary after 13 years of war, embrace each other in reconciliation, mojahedin leaders are still squabbling for power, hurling warnings and ultimatums at each other.

Every meeting between them or their delegates which has taken place in Pakistan since the ouster a week ago of Afghan president Najibollah has ended in failure.

Efforts continued Thursday in the Pakistani frontier city of Peshawar for a rapprochement between the groups, but an agreement on an interim mojahedin administration in Kabul remained elusive.

"Everything is open," Lafraie said, "but unfortunately, until now, there has been no progress."

Discouraged, an impatient Jam'yiat-e Eslami—seeking to avoid a battle over Kabul—has said it would take whatever initiative is necessary to ensure that a mojahedin government takes over there.

The Pakistani Government, which supported for more than a decade the Afghan resistance, is still hoping to forge a consensus among the rebel chiefs, as U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali is expected in Islamabad on Friday.

His personal envoy in the region, Benon Sevan, after a meeting Wednesday with Mas'ud north of Kabul, has apparently decided to take matters into his own hands to avoid a worsening of the crisis.

U.N. sources said he was to have a series of meetings in Pakistan on Thursday.

Sevan told AFP that he had a promise from Mas'ud that he would restrain his forces, and he called on all other mojahedin leaders to follow the commander's example.

Mas'ud appears to be in a position of force outside Kabul, but his long-time archrival Hekmatyar remains able to "create problems," to use the expression often heard in Afghan rebel circles in Pakistan.

It seems unlikely that Hezb-e Eslami forces will get support of important commanders such as Jalaluddin Haqqani or Abdul Haq, whose men are also advancing on Kabul.

If Hemkatyar makes good on his threat to attack the capital on Sunday, most factions would not follow him, mojahedin sources say.

Lafraie, of Jam'iyat-e Eslami, said Mas'ud did not want a "monopoly of power," though the group is prepared for "adequate political action."

Rebel sources said contacts have intensified between Jam'iyat-e Eslami and two fundamentalist Sunni Moslems, Yunes Khales and Rasul Sayyaf, as well as with a small Shiite faction led by Shaykh Asef Mohseni, based in Pakistan.

It also appears that Jam'iyat-e Eslami is trying to lure over moderate, pro-Western leaders such as Pir Seyyed Gaylani and Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, but with Hezb, that will be difficult," Lafraie said.

Some Afghan, Pakistani and Western sources do not rule out the possibility that some Hekmatyar partisans will "throw in the towel and agree at the last minute to join a mojahedin council in Kabul.

Wakil Urges Hekmatyar Not To Attack Kabul

LD2204173192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1709 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent German Baykov]

[Text] Kabul April 22 TASS—A fledgling understanding between warring factions in Afghanistan is vital for preserving the country's unity, independence and territorial integrity, Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdol Wakil told at a press conference in Kabul today.

Fighting has ceased in most provinces and coalition administrative structures have been set up, Wakil, who was apparently optimistic about the prospects for a settlement in Afghanistan, said.

The preservation of the current status quo is vital for averting fighting in Kabul, before any transitional government can be formed, he said.

Government forces are currently controlling the situation in Kabul and can repel any offensive. A storming of the city will derail the peace process and U.N. efforts and will result in a bloodshed, he said.

The Afghan Government appeals to all sides to refrain from the military showdown, that will escalate the war into a new phase, he said.

"I think that no organization can shoulder such a responsibility, nor make such a big mistake," he said.

Wakil said that the ruling Fatherland Party would take part in a peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem, because it "has contributed to peace" in the country.

Commenting on a statement by Golboddin Hekmatyar on his intention to enter Kabul on April 27, Wakil called on Hekmatyar to refrain from attacking the city.

"This is both our demand and the demand of the people," he warned. Otherwise, "Armed Forces and other organisations" will defend the city as had happened several days ago. "We hope that Hekmatyar will opt for a peace settlement, because any other decision will lead to his isolation," he said.

Sevan Says Meeting With Mas'ud 'Satisfying'

BK2304003492 Hong Kong AFP in English 2005 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Kabul, April 22 (AFP)—U.N. peace negotiator on Afghanistan Benon Sevan on Wednesday described his meeting with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud as "satisfying" and urged all other parties to match northern Mojahedin commander's restraint.

Speaking to AFP his return from the northern Afghan town of Charikar, Sevan said he had been given "a very warm reception" by Mas'ud—known to Afghans as the Lion of Panjshir—who has proposed that a Mojahedin council take over control of Kabul.

"I am very satisfied with my visit (to Mas'ud) which was not the first," he said. "I welcome his commitment to restraint in order to give peace a chance, and I appeal to all others to do the same."

Sevan has worked for three years to create an atmosphere among Afghanistan's mutually suspicious neighbours, including Pakistan and Iran, in which the 14-year-old war could end without interference. He appealed to these neighbours to do their "utmost" to stop the fighting around Kabul.

As Sevan spoke, Mas'ud's troops were holding in place 10 kilometers (six miles) north of Kabul, and those of his arch rival, Golboddin Hekmatyar pushing from the south to within 30 kilometers (20 miles) of the city.

Asked whether he thought radical Hekmatyar would join the peace process, Sevan replied: "I look forward to meeting him as soon as possible and practicable, because the fate of Afghanistan is at stake and there should be no precipitous action in order to ensure an orderly change over of power in Kabul."

Sevan appealed to all Afghans to remember that "the objective of the fighting has been achieved...there is no excuse for fighting anymore," referring to the ouster of former president Najibollah last week.

"All neighbours of Afghanistan should do their utmost, and all parties inside Afghanistan should "remain in place, hold their guns and talk together because there is nothing that cannot be achieved through talking," he said. [quotation marks as received]

Sevan met for more than three hours with Mas'ud on Wednesday afternoon at the Mojahedin commander's headquarters in Charikar, where he flew in a Soviet-made helicopter.

His talks were seen as critical at a time when there is deep fear in Kabul of a backlash among tribal Pashtuns in the capital and particularly in the army to the government's proximity to Mas'ud, a Tajik.

Southern commander Hekmatyar is a tribal Pashtun.

Vice President Holds Talks With Hekmatyar

LD2304085292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 0730 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] General Mohammad Rafi', vice president of the Republic of Afghanistan and member of the Executive Board of the Central Council of the Homeland Party, held talks yesterday with esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, head of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], in an area under Hekmatyar's control in Lowgar Province. Gen. Rafi' held detailed and comprehensive discussions with him about the peaceful solution of the country's problems. Gen. Mohammad Rafi', vice president of Afghanistan, emphasized that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan supports the political solution of the issue of Afghanistan, including the plan to set up a provisional council consisting of neutral Afghan figures or a plan to set up the provisional government of mojahedin within the framework of the UN plan, and it invites all relevant forces to exercise self-restraint and to endeavor jointly for the safety and security of the people, and accelerate the process of the peaceful solution of the issue of Afghanistan and maintain the stability of the situation.

At this meeting esteemed Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan, said he has always supported the speedy, just, and peaceful solution of the issue of Afghanistan, and he believes that the crisis over the establishment of a provisional government and the swiftest possible transfer of power to this government can be solved by holding elections within less than a

year. The provisional government should be set up either by a council consisting of commanders in Kabul and its surrounding areas, or the mojahedin parties can establish this government by introducing individuals acceptable to all.

Esteemed Hekmatyar said: The observance of facts and realities in proportion to the strength of the parties is an essential matter. Without this, the provisional government would be unable to control the situation. Under any circumstances the election commission must be formed together with the provisional government. The election process should be completed within a period of less than a year, and power should be transferred to the government elected by the overwhelming majority of the people.

Gen. Rafi' said to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent: In expressing appreciation for the intra-Afghan understanding for the political solution of the issue of Afghanistan, I call on all parties concerned with the problem of the country to set aside hatred and animosity and to spare no efforts for the peaceful solution of the issue of Afghanistan. An atmosphere for intra-Afghan understanding has been created and it is expected that this process will have a positive effect on the solution of the country's destiny as soon as possible.

Hesb-e Eslami Statements Predict Kabul Conquest

New Council To 'Assume Power'

LD2204183292 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 1400 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Statement issued by the Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan on 19 April 1992]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

We give you good news of the imminent conquest of Kabul and the downfall of the hated and bloodthirsty communist regime.

Oppressed compatriots, after the overthrow of the government of the supporter of Babrak Karmal, and the conquest of Kabul by the mojahedin, a council [shura] comprising the effective commanders of fronts surrounding Kabul will assume power. The following are members of this Shura:

Ustad Farid, amir of Jehad of the Parwan-Kapisa Province
Ustad Fatah Mohammad, head of Na'man zone
Eng. Tareq, head of Shafaq zone
Shafaqyar, head of al-Nasr zone
Karim Abed, commander of Qarabagh
'Abdollah Khan, commander of Mirbacha Kot
Mohammad Anwar Khan, commander of Shakardara
Mullah Taj Mohammad, commander of Shakardara
Qazi Jawad, commander of Shakardara
Sufi Mohammad Na'im, commander of Kalakan
Malang, commander of Deh Sabz
'Abdol Qader Khan, commander of Dehsabz
Haji Sher Alam Khan, commander of Paghamn
Belal, commander of Paghman
Eng. 'Abdollah, commander of Jalrez
Didar, commander of Chardehi
Musa Khan, commander of Maydan
Aqa-i Anwari, commander of Sanglakh
Aqa-i Haji, commander of Maydan
Dr. Izatollah, commander of Maydan
Qotboddin, commander of Nerkh
Nesar, commander of Saydabad
Mowlawi Shirin, commander of Chak
Eng Asef, commander of Chak
Dr. Fazlullah, commander of Baraki Barak
Mostafa Badr, commander of Baraki Barak
Ehsanollah, commander of Logar
Mowlawi Sarfoddin, commander of Kolangar
'Abdol Hamid, commander of Mohammad Aghan
Abu Bakr, commander of Lashkar-e Isar
Moawlawi Sediq Akhundzada, commader of Logar
Haji Seyyed Mohammad, commander of Logar
Modir Seyyed Rahman, commander of al-Fath division
Didar, commander of Bagrami
Arsalah, commander of Charasiab
Darwesh, commander of Char Asiab
Mamur 'Abdol Haq, commander of Char Asiab
Nur Agha, commander of Char Asiab

This council will, in its first session, take appropriate decisions concerning the commanders whose membership is necessary in the council and who have been omitted from the above list. It will then form a provisional government for the duration of one year and will take urgent and serious measures to maintain security in Kabul City. This council will act as the supreme authority during the interim period. Similar councils will be formed at provincial levels. Provincial councils will introduce two persons to the central council, who will become members of the council, and who will represent their provinces.

If the [word indistinct] leaders of the regime declare their readiness to hand over power to this council, we will accordingly send members of the council to Kabul to assume the powers of the government. Kabul will not be attacked with the handing over of power to this council. A general cease-fire will come into force and a general amnesty will be implemented. Mojahedin will be prevented from entering Kabul. Otherwise, the mojahedin will be forced to enter Kabul. In this event, we assure the public [in Kabul] that:

1. No harm will be done to anyone.

2. People staying indoors will be completely safe.

3. Everyone who hoists a white or green banner over their homes will be safe from attack.

4. No one will have the right to enter, without proper permission, into peoples homes, shops, or state installations.

5. Security councils will be established in every district and locality. Maintaining security will be the task of these councils. Armed mojahedin will have no right to interfere in security matters in the abovementioned districts. If local residents cannot provide security, they should ask for assistance from the mojahedin to take appropriate measures.

6. Anyone causing disorder and disrupting security in the districts should be reported to the mojahedin as soon as possible to be punished.

7. A number of mojahedin with [words indistinct] should be allowed in every police station to serve the people in security matters.

8. We must prove to the world that Afghans are heroes both in war and in peace, that they are able to solve their difficulties, and that they can successfully run the country. It is essential that the whole world should witness that no harm was done to anyone nor anything was plundered and no disorder took place although armed mojahedin entered Kabul City.

9. Our faithful mojahedin are required to take the residents of Kabul into their confidence. [passage indistinct]

Mas'ud Militia Warned To Leave Kabul

LD2204164392 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pushto to Afghanistan 1400 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Dear compatriots, we draw your attention to a new statement issued today by Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan:

In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful. Muslim residents of Kabul and armed forces based in the city; greetings and the mercy of God and his blessings upon you [phrase in Arabic]. After the seizure of power in Kabul by criminal supporters of Babrak and Keshtmand, with the help of blood-thirsty militia forces of General Momen, a large number of plundering militias were brought to Kabul from northern provinces. As soon as those plundering militia forces arrived, a spate of looting and assaults on the life and honor of the defenseless people of the city was unleashed. The past of those blood-thirsty militia forces, whose hands are stained with the blood of our faithful nation, is so dark and shameful that it makes everyone tremble and makes one shake with sorrow and anger. Stories of those thieves and killers are so painful and ignominous that they shock every human being.

This criminal group is now the only battlefield force in Kabul and the reins of power are almost in their hands. They wish to rule our faithful and mujahed nation, and at the instigation of some selfish, stupid and dull people, they think that they will permanently keep the reins of power in their hands so that they can unleash a spate of plunder. Concerning this inhumane, thieving and blood-thirsty group, we declare:

1. They should all leave the city of Kabul in one day and return to the areas from whence they came, and should stop intimidating the innocent people of Kabul.

2. Those who defend those criminals in the interests of their own ambition for power, and who seek to ascend to power through those murderers and blood-thirsty people must be deprived of the approval and support of the committed and faithful mujaheds, who should immediately distance themselves from these crminals.

3. Unless those criminal and hired militias leave Kabul by Thursday, 23 April, after that date, if they are seen, they should immediately be disarmed, and in any case of resistance they should be crushed.

4. All Kabul residents, all armed forces of the government and mojahedin should cooperate in cleansing the city of Kabul of those filthy elements, and should deal them such punishment that is a lesson to others, so that no one will dare assault anyone's property, dignity, and honor in the future.

5. Unless those militias start to withdraw today, Wednesday, and evacuate the city completely by Thursday evening, they will come under the crushing blows of the mojahedin, whether in the city of Kabul or while withdrawing, and will be deprived of the general amnesty. The transgressors will certainly know what fate awaits them. [sentence in arabic]

200 Captured in Kabul Clash

BK2304011492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1745 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Islamabad, April 22 (AFP)—The Hezb-e Eslami faction of mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar has said that it took some 200 militiamen prisoner after a clash Wednesday [22 April] that left four rebels dead south of the Afghan capital Kabul.

Mangal Hassain, Hekmatyar's spokesman here, said Hezb forces advancing on the capital clashed with about one thousand militiamen in the Soume Duldul region.

Meanwhile in a communique, the Hezb issued an ultimatum to General 'Abdol Momen—head of a northern militia allied to Hekmatyar's main rival, Jam'iyat-e Eslami commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud—warning that his men risked death if they did not leave Kabul by Thursday.

This "damned militia has taken power in Kabul" and is pillaging the city, it said.

All mojahedin factions should "isolate opportunist elements which, thirsty for power" were making alliances with the militias, the statement said in a clear reference to Mas'ud.

Journalists on the Logar road 25 kilometers (15 miles) south of Kabul, where the main Hekmatyar advance is reported, said they saw some 500 government troops, without arms, walking towards Kabul.

The troops gave no explanation of what they were doing, but one soldier said, "we have walked a long time."

There was no sound of gunfire, witnesses said.

Helal on New Regime, Future of Country

LD2204214192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 1400 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] In an interview, Qotboddin Helal, head of political affairs of Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan, said: Our view about the future of Afghanistan and the formation of a government in Kabul is that the mojahedin should reach a solution, and that a regime acceptible to them be installed in Kabul. He added: When the mojahedin have agreed on a formula, then the United Nations and our neighborly countries can cooperate with us. But it will not be proper and judicious for others to determine the fate of the mojahedin without informing them or asking their consent, or appointing other persons from among Afghans. Qotboddin Helal added: The mojahedin now hold joint sessions and it is hoped that eventually they will reach a conclusion, and that further efforts will continue in this respect. The head of political affairs of Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan noted: Under the present circumstances it is better that an administration of the commanders surrounding Kabul is formed, and later they should form an interim government. they should hold elections in a year or six months time.

Islamic Unity Party Wants 4 Members in Council

LD2204173892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The supervisor of the office of Jam'iyat-e Eslami in the city of Mashad, referring to the liberation of important and strategic towns and bases by the Muslim mojahedin, offered his appreciation to the government and the nation of Iran for helping and extending all-round assistance to the Muslim people of Afghanistan during 13 years of their struggle. He asked for the continuation of such help toward the objective of establishing an Islamic government in Afghanistan, reconstruction of the country, and the repatriation of Afghan migrants.

Abdol-Haq Shafaq, Supervisor of the political office of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami] and the party's spokesman, explaining the current situation in Afghanistan, said that any attempt to capture Kabul would be a mistake. He added that mojahedin forces are already stationed around Kabul, while the west of Kabul is under the control of the forces of the Islamic Unity Party. He once again stressed the need for a fair distribution of seats in the proposed council, to be composed of Mojahedin parties, in the administration of Afghanistan. He said that the Islamic Unity Party wants to have four members in the council; it also wants a presence in the future government of Afghanistan. Rejecting any move which might injure the territorial integrity of Afghanistan, the spokesman of the Islamic Unity Party said: We want an Islamic government established in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Rebels Appeal for Emergency Food To Avert Famine

BK2204153892 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 22 Apr 92 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—Mojahedin commanders controlling the Shindhand Air Base in the Farah Province of Afghanistan have appealed to the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], international community and the United Nations to send them food supplies on emergency basis as hundreds of mojahedin and dissident Kabul troops are facing famine like situation, reports ANA.

In a wired report received here Tuesday, the commanders have particularly appealed to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who had earlier promised food aid to mojahedin commnaders, to dispatch the food supplies by air to save the people from starvation.

The mojahedin have assured all safety measures to the landing planes and their take-offs.

India

Reportage on UN Secretary General's Visit

Rao, Ghali Discuss Afghanistan

BK2304031692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Ghali, has said the main effort of the world body is to ensure that violence and bloodshed are avoided in Afghanistan. This was stated by him during his meeting with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi yesterday. The two leaders reviewed the UN peace-making and peace- keeping role in the context of the fast changing world scenario. Mr. Narsimha Rao expressed the hope that Dr. Ghali's vast experience and knowledge of the developing world will be of great help in solving difficult and complex problems. Dr. Ghali apprised Mr. Rao of the situation in Cambodia and appreciated the role played by General Nambiar of India as the head of the UN forces in Yugoslavia.

Ministers Meet With Ghali

BK2204162092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] India has underlined the need to democratize the UN structure. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, told the visiting UN secretary general, Mr. Butrus Ghali, in New Delhi today that there

is consensus among all political parties in India on the usefulness of the world body, particularly in the context of the current international developments. During their talks lasting about an hour, the two leaders held discussions on various issues which included the UN peacekeeping operations in Yugoslavia and Cambodia, West Asia peace conference, and the UN role in economic development. Mr. Faleiro assured India's fullest cooperation to the United Nations in matters relating to training and other areas which involve human resources. Earlier, during the day, the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, exchanged views with Dr. Ghali on the recent developments in Afghanistan.

Sikhs Arrested for Trying to Hand Appeal to Ghali

BK2304081792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Seven Akali leaders were arrested in New Delhi today in apprehension of breach of peace. According to the leaders, they were attempting to hand over an appeal to the UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Ghali, now visiting the country. Those arrested included Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann; Mr. Prakash Singh Badal; and the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak—Sikh temple management—Committee] chief, Mr. Gurcharan Singh Tohra. They criticized their arrested which prevented them from meeting the visiting dignitary. Releasing the appeal by Shiromani Akali Dal and the SGPC signed by Mr. Mann and six other Akali leaders, a spokesman of the leaders alleged that the arrest show the government's lack of interest in solving the Punjab problem.

Commentary Views 'Critical Phase,' Ghali Visit

BK2204055692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Commentary by Jawahar Lal Nehru University Professor K.P. Mishra]

[Text] The current visit of the UN Secretary General, Dr. Butrus Ghali, to India takes place at a time when the international community in general and the United Nations in particular is passing through a critical phase. The qualitative metamorphosis in international relations caused by the end of the cold war, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the ideological transformation of the East European countries, the Gulf war and its aftermath have had a profound impact on the functioning of the world body, especially its executive organ, Security Council. Hence high on the agenda of the discussions between Dr. Ghali and the Indian leaders should be the direction in which the world order is sought to be evolved in an unprecedentally asymmetric power relationship.

History is replete with examples where power, if not countervailed, is bound to crumble upon the interests of others. At the moment, the world body has important tasks ahead—establishment of a peaceful domestic order in Cambodia, prevention of conflict in Afghanistan, implementation of the Security Council resolution in Iraq and Libya and arresting the drift in Yugoslavia.

India's diplomacy over the years has been active and has made a constructive contribution to world affairs. But in recent years, our voice has been somewhat muted on account of both international and national circumstances. Perhaps, this is the occasion, when we give up our hesitancy and play a more dynamic role within and outside the United Nations.

Butrus Ghali is a friend of India and comes from a country with which India has coordinated its international policy through the decades. In the present situation, the political wavelength of Dr. Ghali and India should not be very different though the former is now the representative of the world body and not of his country. We should compare notes with Dr. Ghali about how to democratize the United Nations, not by allowing the Security Council to become a global directorate controlled by its five permanet members, particularly by the sole dominant power of the day, but by restructuring it reflecting the new realities of the world. It is also important that ideas are exchanged about contributing to the evolution of a world order in which the basic objectives of the United Nations and of the Nonaligned Movement are not lost sight of. Pressures on India in the areas of space research, of missile technology, and of nuclear nonproliferation are obvious. Thus Dr. Ghali's discussions in India should address themselves to this formidable agenda.

'Concern' Over U.S. 'Pressure' on Russia

BK2204135892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Several members in the Lok Sabha today expressed serious concern over the U.S. pressure on Russia against transfer of rocket technology to India. Participating in the resumed discussion on the demands for grants of the External Affairs Ministry in the Lok Sabha, the members urged the government to take concrete steps to protect the interests of the country.

Lok Sabha Members Demand Explanation on Bofors

BK2204142092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The government today categorically stated that the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, had no knowledge of the controversial [former foreign minister] Solanki note on the Bofors investigations. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, further assured the Lok Sabha today that the prime minister will make a statement on the issue in the house tomorrow. Mr. Azad denied a newspaper report alleging that the note was handed over by Mr. Solanki to his Swiss counterpart at the prime minister's instance. Mr. Azad's statement ended over four hour's stalling of regular proceedings of the house by the opposition which demanded an immediate statement by Mr. Narasimha

Rao. The impasse was overcome after the opposition agreed that the prime minister make a statement tomorrow provided that the government denies the report about the involvement of Mr. Rao in the episode.

Earlier, the house witnessed pandemonium, walkout and adjournment as the opposition insisted on an immediate statement from the prime minister. The house could not transact any business in the morning as the entire session before lunch was taken up by a discussion on the newspaper report. Replying to the two-and-half-hour-debate in the morning, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad asserted that the government has nothing to hide and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, will respond tomorrow. This led to vociferous protest from the opposition who wanted the prime minister to come to the house immediately to clarify the position. The leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, said the minister's statement implied condemnation of the prime minister as the allegation has not been categorically denied. Reacting sharply, Mr. Azad pointed out that the government had asked the Swiss authorities to ignore the Solanki note within hours of the assurance made in parliament and described the opposition charge as politically motivated and mischievous. This provoked the Janata Dal and Left Front members to rush to the well of the house to obstruct the proceedings. The speaker immediately adjourned the house for lunch amidst the walkout by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. The issue was raised soon after the house assembled this morning with the opposition members on their feet demanding the suspension of question hour. They demanded that the prime minister should resign if the note had been handed over at his instance or with his knowledge. Rebutting the charge, the Congress-I members said that the opposition has been raising the issue time and again during the past five years without any results. A Telugu Desam-B member said that neither the opposition nor the ruling party is interested to find out the truth in the Bofors case.

Rao Denies Knowledge of Note

BK2304084692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, today categorically told the Lok Sabha that he had no knowledge of the note handed over by [former external affairs minister] Mr. Solanki to his Swiss counterpart on the Bofors investigation. He said there is also no question of his authorizing Mr. Solanki to pass it on to the foreign minister of Switzerland and this is the truth of the matter. Making a statement, he said there is also no question of the government or the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] not having reacted adequately or appropriately to the situation. He said that he had clearly indicated government's support to the matter in unequivocal terms on the first of this month after a comprehensive debate on all aspects of the issue. Unfortunately, he said, this matter has come up again on the basis of a newspaper report which by and large is a repetition of what had appeared in the press earlier.

The Lok Sabha witnessed noisy scenes for the second day today on the Bofors issue following a fresh report in a newspaper denying the prime minister's involvement in the Solanki note episode. The ruling party members criticized the opposition for accusing Mr. Narasimha Rao of involvement in the issue. Referring to the newspaper report which said that the Swiss Government has denied the prime minister's link, they demanded an apology from the opposition for having misled the house yesterday. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, said the opposition action yesterday was malicious and a member from the ruling party accused the opposition of character assassination of the prime minister. On this, opposition vehemently protested and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] member, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, said that the Government should come out with its viewpoint on the allegation. When a member from the opposition asked for suspension of the question hour, the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil said that he did not do it yesterday and does not intend to do so today. He said that he will allow members to speak later, but not during the question hour. Mr. Patil said that one can understand the feelings of the ruling party and their reaction in protest against the allegation made by the opposition yesterday. The speaker said that the question hour will continue.

Bihar Janata Dal Leaders Refuse Appointments

BK2204164292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The former president of the Bihar Janata Dal, Mr. Ram Sunder Das, has refused to accept the high command's offer of a post at the central level, while two state ministers have resigned from the Lalu Prasad ministry. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, Mr. Das said that he will not quit the party, but oppose, what he called, the unconstitutional decision of the central leadership to remove him from the presidentship of the state unit without any notice. He said he will continue to work for inner-party democracy. Asked about information of his removal, Mr. Das said that he came to know about his removal only through press reports and is yet to receive a formal letter from the party president, Mr. S.R. Bommai. Meanwhile, the two ministers in the Lalu Prasad ministry, who have already submitted their resignations to Mr. Bommai in protest against the removal, announced that they will hand over the same to the chief minister and the governor at Patna tomorrow. The ministers are Mr. Narender Singh and Mr. Sitaram Das. The Janata Dal high command had appointed Mr. Ramai Ram as the state party president in place of Mr. Ram Sunder Das.

Iran

Velayati Denies Arabs Expelled From Abu-Musa

LD2204154292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Following claims by the propaganda media of the arrogant, alleging that the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to expel the Arab residents of Abu Musa Island, Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Velayati told our reporter today:

[Begin Velayati recording] One is surprised how some of the media, especially Western media, sometimes blow up some very small events. It is our inference that some people are intent on making mischief; otherwise, our relations with the United Arab Emirates, and also with Sharjah Emirate, are very friendly, based on good-neighborliness.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is making great efforts for developing and reconstructing the southern regions of the country, especially the islands in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Gulf of Oman. Therefore, a great many measures have been adopted to develop Abu Musa Island during the past few years. Included among these are the upgrading of the island—the administrative organization of the country—from a district to a governorate. The island's governor is a very hard working and active person with regard to the island's reconstruction and in serving the people of the island as much as possible.

It has been reported that the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to expel the Arab residents of the said island. We catergorically deny this. That is not the case whatsoever. The Arab residents of the island, like other residents, are respected and held in esteem; their rights are preserved. In the past, since the independence of Sharjah until now, whenever they had problems—Arabs residents of Abu-Musa hold citizenship in Sharjah—and when there was any problem, these have been the subject of talks between ourselves and Sharjah and, thus, have been solved. Now, if any problem comes about, we will solve them easily in talks with Sharjah. [end recording]

Paper Views 'Crisis'

LD2204114792 Tehran IRNA in English 0646 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA—The English language daily TEHRAN TIMES Wednesday cautioned against magnifying differences in the Persian Gulf region saying this will lead to unlawful presence of the Western powers in the Persian Gulf and their exploitation of the region.

The editorial in the daily was commenting on emergence of crisis over the Abu-Musa Island. Iran has recently informed al-Shariqah shaykhdom that non-United Arab Emirates [UAE] citizens wishing to travel to Abu-Musa should obtain a special card which cannot be considered as the equivalent of a visa permit.

Stressing that Iran-UAE ties have been relatively good in the past years and the two nations have never faced a specific problem in their relations, the paper said emergence of crisis in relation with the Abu-Musa Island in the past few days "has had a negative effect on the expanding trend of bilateral ties."

"It is the indisputable right of any government to exercise its authority on any territory which lies within its dominion. And the exercise of such a right should not, under any circumstances, be termed an expansionist tendency or the exhibition of clout."

It noted that Iran has never threatened her small neighbouring shaykhdom and that al-Shariqah Amir Sultan Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi has always counted on Iranian support. "Thus the recent hasty and rather vociferous response by the shaykhdom's amir has come as a great surprise to political observers in Tehran."

"Any mistake in aggrandizing differences in points of view between neighbouring countries could extend them to other countries in the Persian Gulf region, and this will in turn lead to the type of crisis which could not be contained within the framework of national interests, and will soon be seized upon by the Western powers to justify their unlawful presence in the Persian Gulf and continue their exploitation of the region."

The editorial also called on the Iranian officials to "beware of engaging in measures which could be construed as threats against the smaller countries in the southern parts of the Persian Gulf."

Official Asks Turkey To Release Impounded Ship

LD2204212492 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Ozdem Sanberk, Turkish deputy minister for foreign affairs, met today with the Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati to discuss regional and bilateral issues. During the meeting, our country's deputy foreign minister, referring to the meeting between the two countries' presidents and the expansion of ties between Iran and Turkey following the victory of the Islamic revolution, called on the Turkish authorities to release the Cape Maleas, the impounding of which has adversely affected the two countries' relations.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Warns Against Cultural Invasion

LD2204124992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Excerpts] The great gathering of commanders and officials of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], which is being held to review the IRGC program for 1992-93, started this morning at the IRGC headquarters in Tehran with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At the ceremony, which was attended by the representative of the supreme jurisconsult [Khamene'i], clergymen, and IRGC commanders and officials, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in his speech that the ideals and principles of the Islamic revolution and the line of the imam must be preserved in the management of the country. Referring to the defensive aspects of the country's overall programs he said: The most sensible method of defense is to understand the enemy's avenues of attack, mobilize resources, and maintain preparedness in the face of his onslaughts.

Referring to possible political, economic, cultural, and military invasions of the nation, he asserted: In every instance, with proper planning and utilization of resources, the enemy's penetration routes should be blocked, and society should be made to progress. He added: In the past, it was thought that a nation would be able to preserve its independence, principles, and values by utilizing primitive means. But that idea is not feasible in present circumstances. Any nation wishing to preserve its independence must equip itself with advanced means. [passage omitted]

He said: We expect you to choose the most straightforward, certain, and independent approaches in defense and military matters. Of course, we have serious political problems which sometimes clash with these considerations. We should be aware of this because the arrogant world is very touchy about us.

Describing the present status of the country in the world as special, he said: Our current situation has brought about particular circumstances. At the same time, the country's resources and its earnest forces have given the authorities encouragement, stability, and confidence. He added: These conditions are such that they have forced our enemies to take us seriously. For that reason, we must be more alert so as not to make any miscalculations.

Referring the country's political situation in the region after certain countries to the north of Iran gained independence, he said: These countries are getting closer and closer to Iran every day for reasons of faith, culture, economy, and politics, despite the United States' extensive efforts to prevent this.

He said: On the whole, the region's political and geographic situation is such that the world is forced to put Iran in a special place. That makes us more alert. While mindful of feelings and sentiments, it is our duty to successfully traverse this difficult path with delicacy and wisdom, by relying on God and utilizing the guidance of his holiness the imam [Khomeyni]—may he be admitted to God's paradise—and his worthy pupil and successor, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. [passage omitted]

President Receives UAE Foreign Minister

LD2204115792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Rashid 'Abdallah al-Na'imi, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], shortly before noon today.

At the meeting, at which Foreign Minister Velayati was also present, the UAE foreign minister delivered a letter, as well as the warm greetings of Shaykh Zayid bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the UAE. He then called for the increasing expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the UAE president for his kind letter. He stressed the need for cooperation between the two countries, especially in the fields of economy and oil. He then welcomed the expansion of cooperation with all neighboring countries, especially the UAE.

Pakistan's Sharif Phones President on Afghanistan

LD2204161492 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has telephoned President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and discussed with him the latest developments in the Afghan crisis. The Pakistani Prime Minister, telephoning from Vienna, expressed the hope that Pakistan and Iran would be able to assist in resolving the current problem of Afghanistan through a continuous exchange of views.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is hopeful that the Muslim nation of Afghanistan can reach its sacred goal of establishing an independent and cohesive government in the near future, and be able to end the long period of hardship and difficulties. Our country's president added: Our obligation and yours, as two Islamic countries that are neighbors to Afghanistan, is to bring together the viewpoints of all combatant Islamic groups and help them toward a transfer of power.

During the telephone contact, the two sides also expressed their opposition to the excessive demands of some groups, and placed emphasis on all groups' cooperation toward a transfer of power through mutual understanding.

Afghan Rebels To Hold 'Urgent' Meeting

NC2304094392 Paris AFP in English 0924 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 23 (AFP)—Political and military leaders of the Afghan resistance, including those based in Iran, will hold an urgent meeting here Thursday to discuss the fate of their country, an informed source said.

"The U.N. peace plan, unified mojahedin (guerrilla) action to create a transition council, and preparations for

a provisional government are the main subjects of the meeting," the source said, calling the meeting "urgent."

Hojjat-ol-Eslam Ebrahimi, representative of Iranian spiritual leader 'Ali Khamene'i to the Afghan rebels, is to take part in the meeting attended by the Islamic Unity Party (IUP), the Shiite rebels based in Iran.

The pro-government TEHRAN TIMES, the English-language daily, said Thursday that Iran was ready to receive U.N. Secretary General Butrus Ghali and do everything possible to boost the peace process in Afghanistan.

Commentary Hopes for Peaceful Afghan Settlement

LD2204123192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Afghanistan is going through a critical political-military time. The way in which the vestiges of the last regime's power will be transferred to the interim government, has become more complex than had been envisaged. [passage omitted]

There is the question of political activities aimed at resolving the problem of alternative rule in Kabul by 27 April, when the transfer of power is due to take place, and what course should these activities take. Apart from this, the most immediate problem is that of preventing violence in Kabul, since, according to some experts, any effort aimed at a military occupation of Kabul will increase the possibility of civil war and will quite likely provoke regroupings among the mojahedin for control of the situation. There can be no doubt that such a development will have a negative impact on the task of finding a final solution to the problem of Afghanistan, especially when, at a regional and international level, the inclination toward finding an immediate political solution to the government crisis in Kabul has gained ground. China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Arabia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the UN have declared that they wish for a peaceful transfer of power in accordance with the agreed composition of the Afghan mojahedin.

Internationaly, too, there are new signs of the inclination to end the crisis of Afghanistan in a peaceful manner. America and the European Economic Community have expresed concern over what they call the power struggle and have called for political solutions to the problem of the transfer of power in Kabul. In this context, the view has gained ground is that domestic, regional and international conditions generally are favorable to the mojahedin reaching a political settlement on the transfer of power in Kabul.

Naturally, any group, party or trend that may move against this popular demand, will face political isolation. It is not very clear how far Hekmatyar's group will act on its own under such a climate.

Yet, at the same time, the possibility should not be overlooked that the survivors of the disintegrating regime in Kabul and the influential army commanders will prefer to place themselves in line with the international trend and will, if given the choice, definitely surrender to the northern front. This is something which, from the military standpoint, too, will be to the detriment of groups that are going it alone.

Despite this, the speed of change in Afghanistan is such that speculations as to what will happen in the next few days or hours has become more difficult. One can only hope that the mojahedin's political leaders reach final agreement over the composition of alternative power in Kabul as soon as possible in order to prevent violence in Kabul and so that the interim government may be able to end the existing state of crisis throughout the country.

Memorandum on Cooperation With Croatia Reported

LD2104110892 Tehran IRNA in English 0924 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—A memorandum on economic, scientific and cultural cooperation between Iran and the newly-independent Republic of Croatia was signed by visiting Croatian Foreign Minister Separovic and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday night.

According to the memorandum, Iran and Croatia agreed to establish full diplomatic relations and boost political, economic and cultural cooperation based on respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in each other's affairs.

It also envisages establishment of air link between Tehran and Zagreb, delivery of oil to Croatia for refining and reexporting, banking relations, promotion of cooperation between the two countries' private sectors, participation in trade, industrial and cultural fairs, promotion of trade, exchange of technical know-how as well as university professors and students, and lifting visa regulations for holders of diplomatic and service passports.

Also a joint statement was signed in which the two sides reiterated the need for boosting Tehran-Zagreb cooperation and expressed concern over the volatile situation in the newly-independent Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H) which together with Croatia were two republics in the former federal Yugoslavia. Both countries called for a peaceful settlement of the conflicts in B-H with taking into consideration the rights of all nations and nationalities in the multinational B-H.

Velayati said the signing of agreements with Croatia means that Tehran-Zagreb diplomatic ties have officially been established. Iran had already given recognition to Croatia.

Separavic said he was highly satisfied with his visit and that he had come to Iran to express gratitude towards recognition of his republic by Iran.

On the situation in former federal Yugoslavia, he said that Yugoslavia was an artificial federation and expressed conviction that a Yugoslavia in its previous form will never emerge in future.

Underlining that the United Nations and many other countries are making efforts to solve the crisis in former Yugoslav republics, he said, "we hope that Iran, too, will make further efforts in this regard."

Meanwhile, head of the Muslim community of Croatia and Slovenia who is accompanying the Croatian delegation, also held separate talks with Iranian officials and discussed issues related to Muslims in the two republics.

The Croatian minister also held talks with First Vice-President Hasan Habibi yesterday and handed over the Croatian president's message to his Iranian counterpart President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanking Iran for recognizing his republic.

Habibi expressed hope that Iran and Croatia start extensive cooperation in all fields. He also explained Iran's viewpoints on the fate and status of Muslims in the newly-independent republics of Yugoslavia.

Separovic arrived here at the head of a delegation Monday morning.

PUK Radio Reports Regional Armed Clashes

LD2204211692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Yesterday, two Iraqi regime helicopters heavily bombed the Nujul region in Iraqi Kurdistan. According to the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan [PUK] Radio, fully equipped Iraqi regime forces also attacked a number of regions in al-Amarah, killing or injuring tens of inhabitants. According to the PUK radio, the Iraqi Army was forced to withdraw after being strongly confronted by the opposition and popular forces.

Iraqi opposition forces recently attacked a mechanized unit of the regime's forces on the road between Ashkaniyah and Judday, destroying a tank and killing 30 Iraqi regime forces, including a number of officers. The same radio reports that Iraqi regime forces, comprising of a number of infantry brigades and armored batallions, have been stationed around the holy city of Karbala, while a large number of the regime's plain-clothed forces have been sent to the city.

The latest reports state that Nasiriyah marshlands, in southern Iraq, were scenes of heavy clashes between the Iraqi Ba'thist Army and popular forces who have taken refuge in those regions. The clashes began in the early hours of Tuesday with an Iraqi Army attack on those regions.

An IRNA report quoting a reliable source mentions that heavy clashes are still continuing. There are no exact reports on the situation of the popular and Ba'thist forces.

Pakistan

Kanjoo Expects Power Transfer in Kabul 'Shortly'

BK2204164892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, has said as a result of joint efforts by various parties involved in the Afghan question, we will be able to get good news about the peaceful transfer of power in Kabul very shortly. He was speaking at a press conference in Peshawar this evening after intensive negotiations with leaders of Afghan tanzimat [organizations] for the past couple of days. He said Pakistan was not only in constant touch with all Afghan leaders and field commanders, but was also working closely with the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], UN, and brotherly countries of Saudi Arabia and Iran to resolve the issues involved in reaching a consensus for formation of a new setup in Kabul.

Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo said consultations are in progress among various Afghan tanzimat and good results are expected to be achieved to get the fruits of the Afghan jihad which has culminated in a logical way. He said Pakistan is proud of having played a very significant role in this jihad and was now continuing its initiatives in a more effective manner to achieve good results. He, however, made it clear that there will be no such role for anyone which is aimed at thrusting any formula or proposal on the Afghan people. The decision about the future setup in Kabul lies with those who have given sacrifices during the long-drawn jihad.

Mr. Kanjoo said the Pakistan team at the ongoing consultations with Afghan leaders remained in close contact with the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, during his tour to Austria and we have been seeking guidance from him for continuing intensive consultations for finding a consensus. The prime minister himself had held talks with the Afghan leaders in Peshawar before proceeding on his foreign tour and he left the team behind to carry on the task in order to achieve a nonaligned, Islamic government in Afghanistan without any further bloodshed. He said mojahedin leaders wanted to have time for consultations and with this consideration, the prime minister undertook his foreign tour which was cut short from five to two days in order to make himself available in Islamabad for providing guidance to these leaders and commanders at the most crucial juncture of the history of Afghanistan.

The mojahedin leaders and commanders deeply recognize the positive role being played by Pakistan. He added we are very hopeful that we are nearing a solution of the Afghanistan question. We are having consultations with all Afghan mojahedin leaders and commanders and we do not believe in dropping out any side in connection with these consultations. Intensive activities are under way and things are moving fast.

Najibollah Asylum Request Reportedly Refused

BK2204145892 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] Lahore, Apr 21—The deposed Afghan President Najibollah had sought asylum in Pakistan, but his request was rejected in view of a possible backlash by the mojahedin, Defense Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah said here on Tuesday.

Talking to newsmen at the Alhamra Art Center, he said Najib's request was examined and first it was thought that providing asylum to a man in trouble could be good. However, the idea was dropped for it could also offend the mojahedin, he said.

Answering a question, the defence minister said Pakistan had been offering sacrifices for the cause of mojahedin for the last 13 years and it would not like to see them going waste. "There will be peaceful transfer of power and we hope this will happen very soon", he said.

He denied the reports of fighting between Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Hekmatyar's groups. Ahamad Shah Mas'ud is behaving very responsibly and Hekmatyar would also not like to use his force against Mas'ud," he said.

He told a reporter that the government was trying its best to forge unity among the mojahedin. He had held a meeing with them till 4 a.m. as a result of which all parties but one had given lists of their nominees for the proposed interim council. The representative of Hekmatyar group sought time to consult his party shoora.

Answering a question about assertions that the UN formula had become redundant in the changed situation, the defense minister said the United Nations when intervened to solve any problem it involved lesser confusions.

The present UN formula was made when Najib was still in power. But the situation had changed with his ouster from power, Ghous Ali Shah said. He said the UN formula could be amended in view of the changed situation—with the consent of the parties concerned.

The defense minister rejected opposition's claims that the government was working under dictates from the United States. Pakistan, he emphasized, was not working under anybody's dictates, but was trying to safeguard the interests of the mojahedin, Mr. Shah said.

Officials Discuss Asylum Offer

BK2204160092 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 22 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] PESHAWAR—The ANP [Awami National Party] leaders who are desirous for residing Dr Najibollah in Peshawar or in Charsada, have discussed the matter with the Northwest Frontier Province Chief Minister Mir Afzal Khan on Monday evening.

Some reliable sources said that a high level delegation of the ANP including Federal Minister Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, Begum Nasim Wali Khan and others held a detail meeting with Mir Afzal Khan and apprised him of their point of view on reported arrival of Dr Najibollah in Peshawar.

The ANP leaders, the sources added, suggested the chief minister to make all arrangements including security measures for the former Afghan president both in Peshawar and also in Wali Bagh where Dr Najibollah will stay. The ANP leaders in this connection suggested the chief minister for direct removal of Dr Najibollah to Wali Bagh, Charsada though helicopter.

The NWFP Chief Minister Mir Afzal Khan in this connection, assured full support to the ANP leders and said that their wishes would be honoured.

It may be mentioned there that former Afghan President Najibollah respects Khan Abdul Wali Khan. In this connection Begum Nasim Wali Khan through a message suggested Dr Najibollah take shelter in Pakistan particularly in the Frontier Province.

Efforts To Form Mojahedin Council Reported

BK2204144992 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Efforts are continuing in Peshawar among all Afghan mojahedin parties and groups for the formation of a mojahedin council to take over power and executive authority in Afghanistan. A Foreign Office spokesman, briefing newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon, said a series of meetings have been taking place, some of which [are] among mojahedin parties themselves and some [which are] attended by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said at this stage there is no conflict among mojahedin parties and groups. There is a difference of opinion and views among them and it is the effort of Pakistan Government that these differences are resolved peacefully, leading to the formation of mojahedin council. He said any decision agreed to by Afghan parties and groups would be acceptable to Pakistan. The spokesman said the prime minister, who is returning from Vienna tonight, has kept himself fully abreast of the latest developments taking place in Peshawar and Afghanistan. He said it is under the prime minister's instructions that efforts are under way for the formation of the mojahedin council. On his return, the prime minister would again be deeply involved in furthering efforts to achieve an agreement among mojahedin parties and groups on the matter.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said Pakistan would also take up the question of the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people with the UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Ghali, during his visit to Islamabad. He said the UN chief executive would also be

apprised of the atrocities being committed by the Indian forces in occupied Kashmir.

Further on Mojahedin Council

BK2204161492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Commenting on the seriousness of the situation in Afghanistan, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad this afternoon that events there are changing very rapidly and that this necessitates an early agreement among the mojahedin parties and groups to ensure a peaceful and orderly transfer of power to a mojahedin council. The spokesman said that most of the Afghan mojahedin parties have submitted the names of their representatives to the proposed council.

Answering a question, the spokesman said: There is no conflict among mojahedin parties and groups at this stage. There is, however, a difference of opinion among them and it is the effort of the Pakistani Government that these differences are resolved peacefully, leading to the formation of a mojahedin council.

He said: Our main objective is to avert bloodshed in Afghanistan; that is why they are endeavoring to prevent any conflict among the mojahedin. The spokesman said the prime minister, who is returning home from Vienna tonight, has kept himself fully abreast of the latest developments in Peshawar and Kabul. It is only with the instructions of the prime minister that efforts are being made to form a mojahedin council. On his return home, the prime minister will again be involved in furthering efforts to achieve an agreement among mojahedin parties and groups on the matter.

Answering another question, the spokesman said the messages sent by Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud indicate that all sides agree to the fact that the mojahedin council should be formed by the Afghan parties and groups that have been working together. All those troops of the Afghan resistance movement who have waged the heroic struggle against the foreign aggression also should be included in this process.

About Najibollah, the spokesman said at this stage, that he could only confirm that the effort of the UN office for his safe exit from Afghanistan has not succeeded. He said Pakistan is in touch with the United Nations, and if a formal request is made to Pakistan in this regard, then Islamabad will cooperate with the world body.

Answering a question whether Najibollah's early departure from Afghanistan will help in resolving the problem, the spokesman said every effort or development that helps in the peaceful, orderly, and unhindered transfer of power from the present Kabul regime to the mojahedin council will be supported by Pakistan.

Sharif Accused of Losing Afghan Initiative

BK2204164092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] ISLAMABAD, April 22 (AFP)—Pakistan's opposition Wednesday accused Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of losing the initiative over Afghanistan, demanding an emergency session of the parliament to discuss the government's Afghan policy.

"The government should take the opposition into confidence," Syed Iftikhar Gilani, a leader of the main opposition Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA), told a press conference, stressing that "the U.N. formula for Afghan peace should be followed in letter and spirit."

The government should call an emergency session of parliament to discuss Afghan policy, he said.

Former caretaker prime minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi accused Sharif of scrapping earlier this year a special high-level cell under President Ghulam Ishaq Khan responsible for keeping Afghan policy on track.

This cell was disbanded by Sharif in January, Jatoi said, adding "Sharif and his close associates have no ability, farsightedness or wisdom to deal with such a grave problem."

"We are very worried and anything can happen any moment," said Jatoi, who met the president here Monday.

Sharif was expected to return here late Wednesday or Thursday from a visit to Austria.

He left for Vienna Sunday after a marathon session with mojahedin factional leaders failed to break a deadlock over the formation of a council to take power in Kabul.

"His trip abroad in the midst of fast-changing situation in Afghanistan speaks for itself," Jatoi said, claiming that Pakistan's neighbour was on the verge of a disastrous ethnic conflict and bloodshed.

National opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said Sunday the government had given away its influence over events in Afghanistan by "siding" with a particular mojahedin faction, which she did not name.

Bhutto also criticized Sharif's foreign visit, saying "this was no time for the prime minister to travel to Austria, especially when more persuasion was needed" to bring about an agreement among mojahedin parties.

A foreign office spokesman here Wednesday told a press briefing that Sharif was keeping himself fully abreast of the develpments and that he would be "deeply involved" with the mojahedin negotiations on his return from Austria.

Indian Expulsion of Diplomat Termed 'Unwarranted'

BK2204165492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today described as unjustified and totally unwarranted India's decision to expel a diplomat of the Pakistani Embassy in New Delhi. Answering newsmen's questions about the Indian Government's action, the spokesman said that we regret this decision, because the diplomat, Arshad Ali, was discharging his normal duty allowed under the Vienna Diplomatic Convention.

Minister on Settling Indian Issues by Dialogue

BK2304070292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has said that by resolving the issues that are straining Pakistan-India relations through negotiations, both countries can spend most of their financial resources in the field of social welfare. He said this while delivering a lecture on the subject of Pakistan's security and defense issues at the Joint Services Staff College in Rawalpindi. He said Pakistan is ready to consider all just and balanced proposals which guarantee South Asia as a nuclear-weapons free zone.